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Subject: American Opinion Magazine

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Memorandum



To : SAC, BOSTON

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DATE 2/11/02 BY SP4BJA/plj
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FILE NUMBER: 100-32899-1A
SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

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<u>DATE RECEIVED</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
12/13/65	26. Pamphlet, "The United Nations", apparently a reprint of material printed by "The Fearful Master" by G. Edward Griff
1-27-66	27. Bulletin, John Birch, "The Name"
4/23/66	28. 2 copies of post card - to [REDACTED]
3/21/66	28. "Report on the John Birch Society 1966"
3/5/68	29. Post card bearing what is alleged to be a photo of Martin Luther King.

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100-32899-1A

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ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

72 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass. 02110

LIberty 24977

For your information

Isadore Zack

Civil Rights Director

New England Region

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File No.

100-32899-1A (26)

Date Received

12-13-65

From

See Philadel

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(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By

See Boston

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes

☐ No

Description:

Pamphlet
"The United
Nations", apparently
a reprint of
material printed
by "The Fearful
Masters" by
Edward Tiffin.

See serial 363

Bs 100-32899-1A①

File No. 100-32899-1A (27)

Date Received 1-27-66

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(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

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Description: Bulletin "John
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JOHN BIRCH IN UNIFORM

by ARNOLD FORSTER

*The campaign to enlist police departments as the
strong arm of a fanatical political creed is corrup-
tion at its worst.*

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-27-2012

Reprinted from **the ADL bulletin** November, 1965



JOHN BIRCH IN UNIFORM

The campaign to enlist police departments as the strong arm of a fanatical political creed is corruption at its worst.

by ARNOLD FORSTER

LOCAL law enforcement has never been more in the news or under such close scrutiny. Newspapers headline accusations of police brutality, of alleged racial discrimination. Policemen are pilloried and criticized—with and without adequate justification. It is a time of tension, anxiety, and social change. And in this time of awesome problems, responsibilities and needs, police departments across the nation are being wooed by a seemingly sympathetic friend offering solace and solution.

The "friend" is the John Birch Society. The solution is voiced simply, in a catch slogan typical of all extreme right wing solutions—"Support Your Local Police."

The campaign, launched two years ago in the Society's monthly bulletin, has grown from an effort to circulate "Support Your Local Police" bumper stickers, lapel buttons and streamers as widely as possible among the civilian population to a hard-hitting and ever-expanding drive to enlist policemen themselves as members of the John Birch Society.

Why is the Society so anxious to befriend law enforcement officers? Although its motive is clearly related to promoting the John Birch Society, it just as clearly seems to have little, if anything, to do with a sincere interest in supporting the police.

THE SOCIETY is a crusade against "the Communist conspiracy," which it sees everywhere—in the Supreme Court, the United Nations, the federal government, and United States foreign and domestic policies of the last thirty years. Criticism of local law enforcement, proposals for civilian review boards, most activities on behalf of civil rights and those who participate in them, are all, according to ultra-rightist ideology, part of "the Communist conspiracy."

These are the concerns of the John Birch Society, and were its concerns when the "Support Your Local Police" program began—kicked-off with generous praise for the handling of Negro demonstrators by the Birmingham, Alabama police, then under fire from civil rights groups and federal authorities. The Society's praise included lauding the department's use of police dogs.

During the "long hot summer" of 1964, as more and more Negro communities confronted police in civil rights demonstrations, and demands for civilian review boards increased, the Birch Society stepped up its drive and at the same time began to recruit policemen—using as its lure opposition to civilian review boards.

"Support Your Local Police" committees, Birch Society front organizations, were established in countless cities, became recruitment depots, and enlisted, according to John Rousselot, the Society's director of public relations, "growing numbers of police and personnel in sheriff's departments throughout the country."

POLICEMEN, by and large, see civilian review boards as "interference" in their private affairs and resent efforts to appoint a citizens' watch over police practices. They claim a tradition of operating by their own codes, apart from the rest of society, and governed by the dictates of impersonal and absolute law.

Ideally, the policemen's job is to enforce the law impartially, without fear, and through methods consistent with constitutional guarantees respecting the dignity of the individual and the concept of human equality. In reality, however, police activities in some areas reflect individual social biases and those of the local community as a whole. In Birmingham, for example, Bull Connor's police—with bullwhips and snarling dogs—protected local mores completely opposite to the American concept of laws which are equal for all men. Not surprisingly, there has been no major agitation in Birmingham for a civilian review board of the police. It is also not surprising that in



one Birch Society bulletin, the Birmingham "Support Your Local Police" committee was described, in words and pictures, as the ideal for such groups.

Police departments must have support, but must also not be immune from criticism when criticism is warranted—in cases, for instance, where police neutrality and objectivity have possibly strayed. The danger in accepting Birch Society support is that such support is based not on serving policemen or the laws they are sworn to uphold, but rather the John Birch Society itself—which is neither neutral nor objective.

In initiating the "Support" campaign, Robert Welch, the Society's founder and leader, declared policemen to be "the best friends everywhere of anti-Communists, like ourselves." In view of the frightening ease and sweep of Birch Society charges of Communism, the organization can only be classified as an extremist group. In a democracy, it has, of course, the right to be heard, to organize, and even attempt to influence others. But is it the kind of organization that policemen should join?

Quinn Tamm, executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, speaking about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 before a conference of police

Mr. Forster is general counsel of the Anti-Defamation League. This article appears simultaneously in *The Progressive*, a monthly magazine published in Madison, Wisconsin.

executives at the University of California last year, declared that "... it is not possible for a professional law enforcement officer to function effectively if he closes his eyes to legislation which affects him and the community to which he is responsible."

No Birch Society member "closes his eyes" to the Civil Rights Act. He is far more apt to look at with open contempt and deep suspicion—a view encouraged by inflammatory articles in the Birch monthly *American Opinion*, such as those written by high officials of the racist White Citizens' Councils. It certainly would seem that as racial tensions develop, what a police department needs is not Birch Society support but community confidence in its objectivity.

THE PROPRIETY of Birch membership among the police has been severely questioned in many cities where evidence of Society influence has shown itself.

In Salisbury, Massachusetts, the Birch Society's pamphlet "Support Your Local Police" was distributed to all those attending the Police Association banquet on June 23 of this year.

In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, two police officers—one a deputy inspector—openly criticized the courts in an address before a meeting of Birch members.

In Rockford, Illinois, and in at least one New York City precinct, Birch material has been displayed on the police bulletin board.

In Trenton, New Jersey, the police chief quoted the Society's monthly bulletin verbatim in a departmental memo to all members of the force.

Birch Society proclivity for seeing Communists in every opposition camp was evident when more than 5,000 off-duty policemen marched and shouted outside New York's City Hall last June

in opposition to independent civilian review boards. While several civil rights organizations picketed across the street in favor of such a board, some of the marching policemen began to chant in unison, "Fight the Reds! Support the Blue!" and then to sing "Farmer is a fink" to the tune of The Farmer in the Dell—referring to James Farmer, leader of the Congress of Racial Equality.

Only a week later, an audience of 500—most of them, according to reporters, New York police officers identifiable by their PBA badges—attended a rally at the Town Hall auditorium sponsored by the John Birch Society's American Opinion Speakers Bureau. The cheering policemen heard a Birch "section leader" declare:

"Some people hate the police. The Birch Society has the answer—if it is the only hope for the world!"

One foundation upon which Birchism rests is the belief that democracy is "a perennial fraud." The John Birch Society, an anti-democratic and divisive force, is under the command of a leader from whose basic direction no member may swerve. It proclaims that the United States is 60-80% Communist-controlled. It preaches that our schools and churches are under active Red domination; that organized labor, the civil rights movement, the United Nations, NATO, foreign aid, mental health programs, and even the teaching of "modern math" are all functions of a Bolshevik conspiracy. And Robert Welch has stated that the best way to oppose such examples of "Communism" is to use Communist methods, including tactics he calls "mean and dirty."

Such views are not, however, the mouthings of a lone individual. They make up the orthodoxy of the whole organization, and are accepted by the vast

majority of its members—freely, but with the understanding that disagreement means dismissal. It is worth noting that Robert Welch has assessed his own book, *The Politician*—in which he describes former President Eisenhower as "a dedicated and conscious agent of the Communist Conspiracy"—to be the number one tool for recruiting new members into his Society.

IT HAS been argued that the existence of a cell of policemen forming a secret Birch Society unit within their department, is not inconsistent with the ideal of police objectivity. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Howard Leary said in February, 1965, that "the authorities have not yet been able to answer the question ... Does membership in the John Birch Society conflict with a policeman's duties?"

Leary's own superior, Mayor James H. J. Tate, had provided an answer only three months earlier. In placing fifteen Philadelphia policemen on limited duty because of their Birch Society recruiting activities, Mayor Tate explained: "They have limited their capacity and usefulness to the Police Department." Asked why, he replied: "Let's not be ridiculous. This is a situation where they are not attuned with law enforcement problems. They are against certain groups in the big cities." And in New Jersey, a state trooper was dismissed because his Birch membership was found to have interfered with the proper performance of his duty.

Other officials see it differently. William H. Parker, police chief of Los Angeles, has declared that he is not concerned about police membership because the Birch Society is "not on the subversive list." In June of this year, however, Parker suspended a young patrolman for his off-duty participation in the activities of CORE, which also is not on the subversive list. The officer, facing a departmental trial, charged that the department had "given tacit endorsement" to the recruiting of policemen into the Right Wing ranks. On May 30, 1965, Chief Parker himself appeared on the Manion Forum, the weekly radio program of Clarence Manion, a member of the John Birch Society's National Council.

On the program, heard over more than 300 stations, Parker vehemently attacked the nation's courts, decried a "socialistic trend" he saw in American society, and deplored undue concern by courts for civil liberties.

It is this very concern, ironically, which prompts some civil libertarians to uphold the "right" of a policeman to join any group he chooses. Others have pointed out in rebuttal that individual liberties pertain more properly to the freedom of speech and assembly than to any so-called



Off-duty New York policemen picket City Hall to protest proposed civilian review board.

right of public employees to join private organizations. They point out that there is no "right" to public employment, that it is a privilege, and that police—like other public employees are subject to rigid rules of behavior. They may not strike. In most cities they may not join political clubs or (as New York City puts it) "organizations supporting candidates for elective office." It is a fact that the Birch Society apparatus engaged in a massive propaganda effort on behalf of one of the two major Presidential candidates in 1964.

New York's rule adds that policemen may not join "organizations which would interfere with the performance of police functions." And herein may lie the crux of the question. We have, from Santa Ana, California, an example of what can happen when Birch members, within a police department, decide to show their colors.

In that city of 100,000—thirty miles southeast of Los Angeles—23 police officers made up the membership of Birch Society Chapter QXTZ. A private detective, assigned by the city manager to investigate a mysterious campaign of harassment against Police Chief Edward J. Allen, reported that the incidents had been perpetrated by the members of the all-police Birch Chapter as a power-play to get rid of Allen and have him replaced by someone more to their liking.

Unsigned pamphlets questioning the chief's honesty had been widely distributed. Allen's home had been plagued by anonymous telephone calls late at night. Fire trucks were sent there on false alarms and bunches of unordered flowers arrived C.O.D. The chief's badges were stolen and his picture removed from the wall at police headquarters.

One lieutenant who was an active member of QXTZ was later dismissed

from the force for engaging in Birch recruiting while on duty and for misappropriating a police vehicle—using it while on a secret snooping mission aimed at discrediting Chief Allen.

The John Birch chapter controlled the Santa Ana Police Benevolent Association, all of its officials but one being QXTZ members. And after achieving this dominance, the Birchers changed the PBA by-laws to allow the grievance committee, which was also under Birch control, to hear secret testimony against the chief. A secretary who had made shorthand notes at one PBA meeting testified later that the official minutes of the meeting had been falsified to eliminate reference to still another Birch proposal to discredit Allen.

Eventually, the activities of the Birch Society cell in Santa Ana's police force tore departmental loyalties down the middle and had begun to weaken a divided community's confidence in its law enforcement. Only after the exposure of a public investigation did the Birchers retreat, protesting their innocence. Such exposure is vital to public awareness of secret infiltration tactics. The Santa Ana experience seems to support the view that objective police responsibility and membership in the John Birch Society are incompatible with each other.

"The right of policemen to join any political group," according to an editorial in *Commonweal*, "must be balanced against the right of the people to defend the integrity of their law enforcement machinery." Infiltration of police departments can lead to control, to domination by what the Birch Society's founder has called "a minority that knows what it wants." And such domination could place police power to question, to search, to detain, or to render suspect—in the hands of quasi-political forces dedicated

to an extremist creed. Mayor Tate, referring to Philadelphia's infiltration problem, recalled what the political use of police power brought to recent history and said: "This is the way the Nazi Party began."

IN EVALUATING the problem of defending police integrity, there are several points to be considered—particularly in answer to the deceptive question of a policeman's "right" to join this or that organization.

1. The John Birch Society preaches that much of our present law is unconstitutional and perhaps subversive, and that the courts of the United States are deliberately serving the Communist conspiracy. It is indeed doubtful whether anyone in agreement with such views could stand by the policeman's oath to uphold the law.

2. At a time when civil rights and police interests are so often found in delicate relationship, it would be especially dangerous if police power fell under the control of persons who believe that many of their neighbors, and most of those active in civil rights issues, are the agents of an evil enemy in our midst.

3. Indoctrinated in John Birch dogma, the individual police officer—as in Santa Ana—is likely to take certain matters into his own hands.

The effort to enlist police departments as the strong arm of a fanatical political creed is corruption at its worst. If the professional policeman becomes locked in the embrace of the extreme right wing, then the integrity and objectivity of all law enforcement is at stake. The task, it would seem, is for police themselves to take a long hard look at the real nature of Birch-sponsored "Support Your Local Police" campaigns. Are these supporters friends or merely pipers of a dissonant tune?

R 202

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per copy

File No. 100-32899-1A (28)

Date Received 2/23/66

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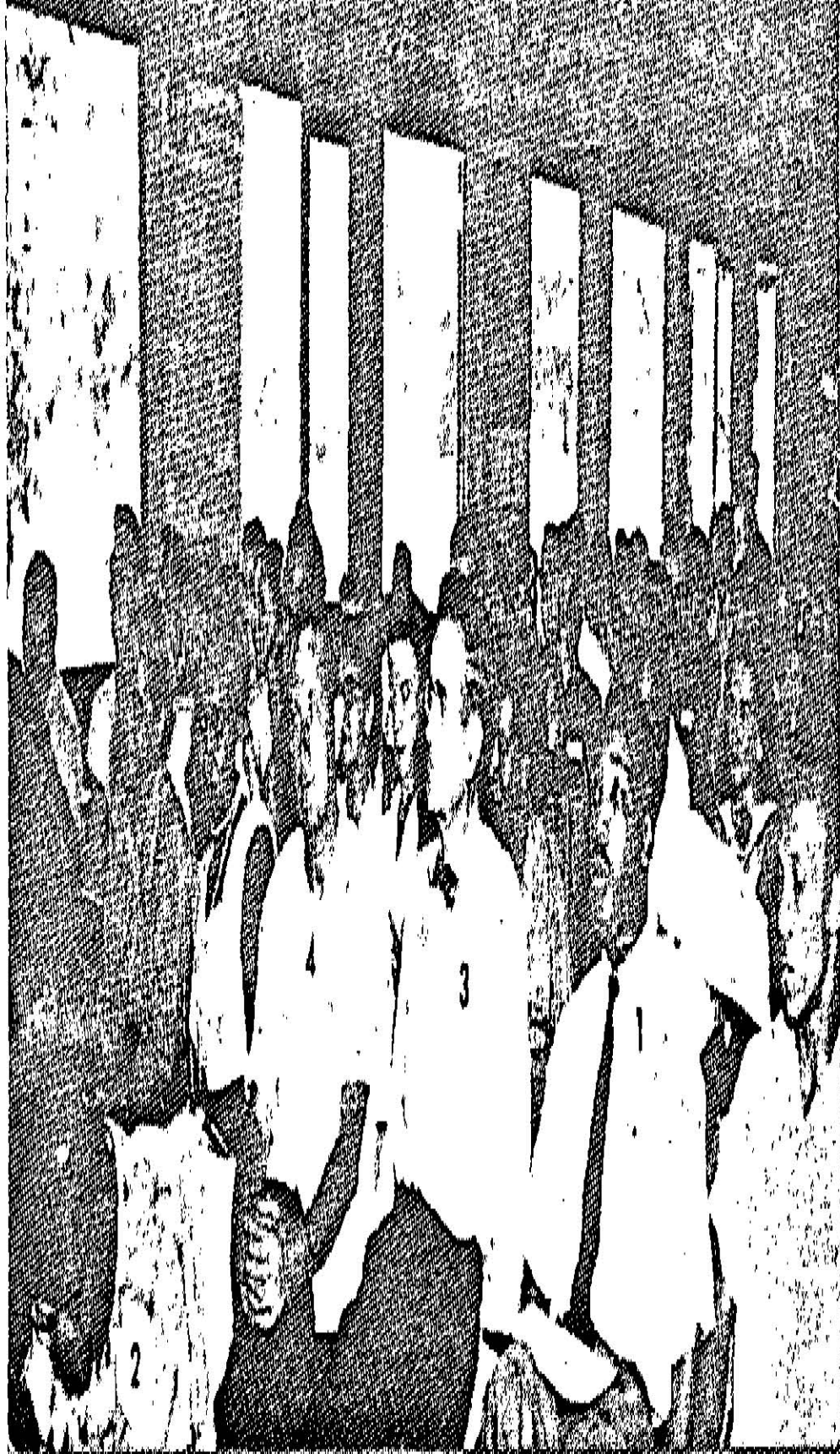
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A Training School For Communists



8/26/60
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2/23/68

DIAL 525-1717

Identifications

The picture on the other side was made at Highlander Folk School during the Labor Day week-end of 1957. Attentive pupils identified by the numbers are:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. The association indicated here is not unusual for Dr. King, who belongs to several important Communist front organizations, and who regularly employs or affiliates with known Communists.

2. Abner W. Berry, of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

3. Aubrey Williams, President of the Communist front, the Southern Conference Educational Fund.

4. Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School (for Communist Training), Monteagle, Tennessee. This school was later closed down by the State of Tennessee, but an offspring is now thriving in Knoxville.

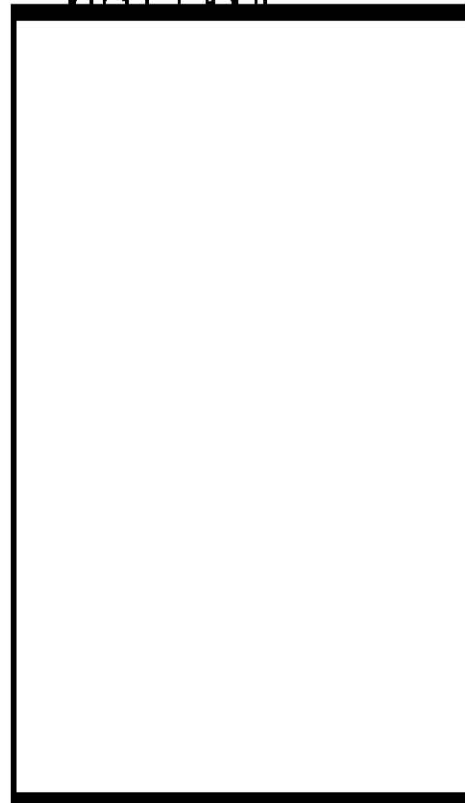
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POST CARD

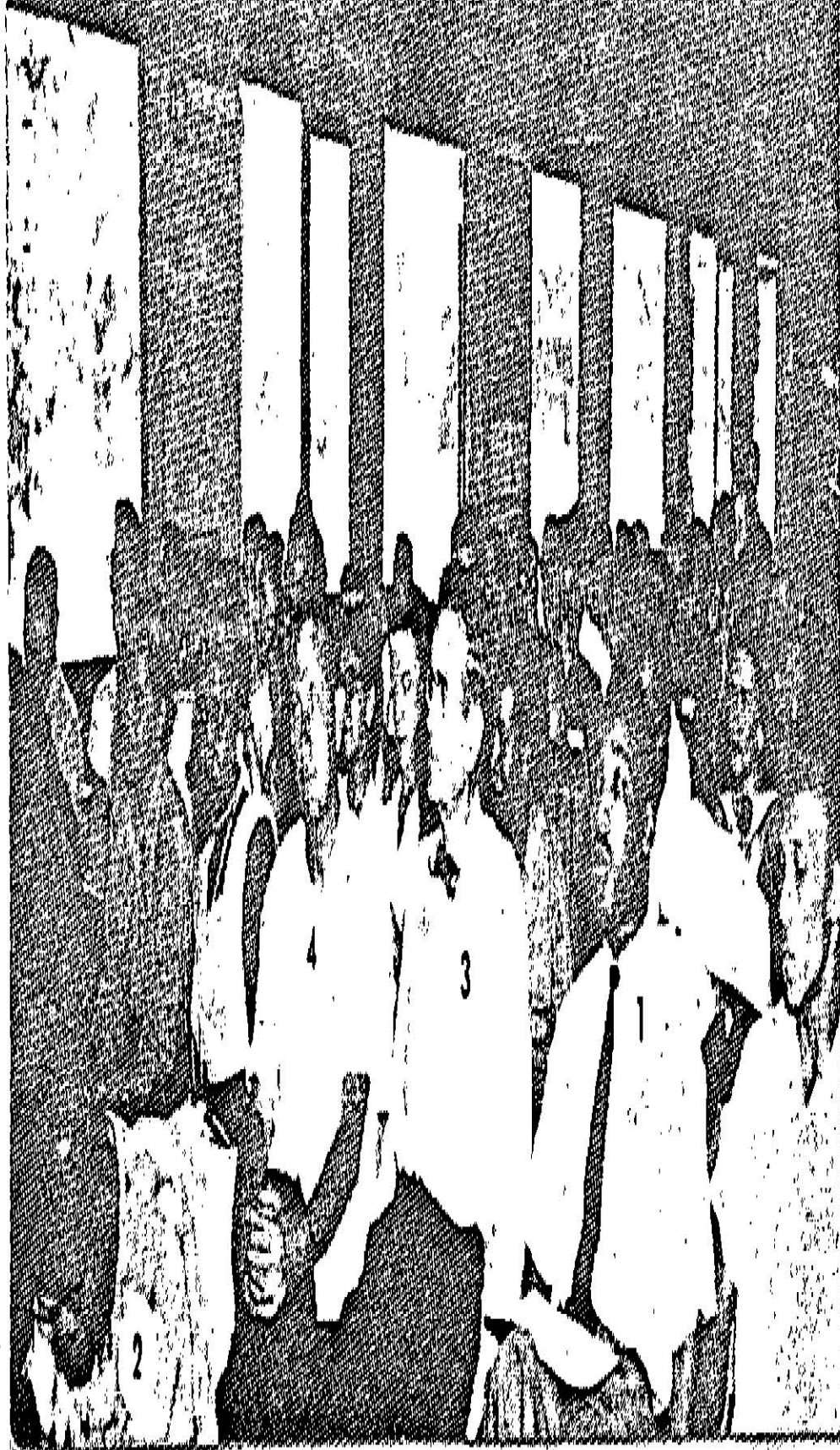


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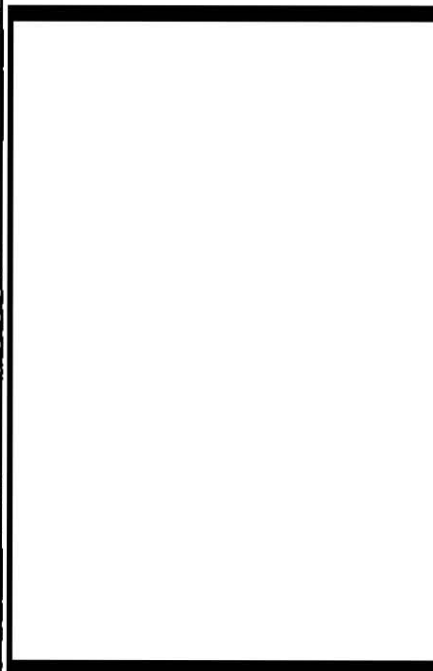
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File No.

100-32899-1A-28

Date Received

3/21/66

From

G. G. Zech

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By

John F. Noonan

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes☒ NoReceipt given ☐ Yes☐ No

Description:

"Report on the John
Birch Society 1966"

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to be a photo of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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A Training School For Communists



Identifications

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1. Martin Luther King, Jr. The association indicated here is not unusual for Dr. King, who belongs to several important Communist front organizations, and who regularly employs or affiliates with known Communists.

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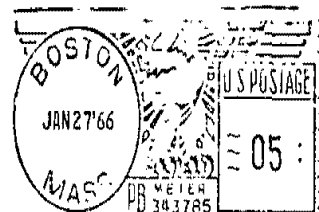
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James L. Handley
SAC, F. B. I.
470 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

X 2344

466396
#953994

2/4/68

THE UNITED NATIONS

Briefly summarized, the Communist blueprint for world conquest via the United Nations is as follows:

1. Consolidate total working control of the United Nations into Communist hands as rapidly as possible.
2. Use the United Nations to break up the colonial territories of non-Communist countries.
3. Use the United Nations as a vehicle for subversion, espionage and propaganda within the non-Communist member nations.
4. Induce the non-Communist member nations to abandon any strong independent foreign policy of their own by turning over this function to the United Nations.
5. Maneuver the non-Communist member nations into establishing socialism at home as the necessary transition stage to Communism and to become dependent economically on the overall international socialist control and direction of the U. N.
6. Induce the stronger non-Communist member nations to transfer full control of their military forces to the United Nations. After this, no resistance will be possible. The world will be Communist.

Since the United States is, at the present time, the only nation on earth that offers the potential of real resistance to the Communist plan of the world conquest, the U. N. blueprint has been designed for us. The Communists know that if they can just get America to step in the cage, the rest of the world will be theirs. The master plan can be further condensed: to gain full working control of the U. N. and, at the same time, to entice the United States to gradually surrender its Sovereignty to this world government.

For those who may be puzzled at why the Communists are concerned over raising the level of underdeveloped countries, it should be noted that this not only helps to bring all nations together into a single world system of economy, but also serves to bleed dry the capitalist countries that will be paying the bill. In addition there is the fact that underdeveloped countries are more difficult for the Communists to take over than the more advanced ones. This will undoubtedly come as quite a shock to those who have been told that our massive giveaway program to foreign countries is keeping the Communists at bay.

The Communists are master strategists. They know full well that they could never hope to conquer the world through military might alone. But through trickery and deception, they have developed a formula whereby they can take over America without firing a shot.

THE FEARFUL MASTER BY [REDACTED]




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#953994

Report on
THE
JOHN
BIRCH
SOCIETY
1966

by the authors of
Danger on the Right
Benjamin R. Epstein
and Arnold Forster

A Vintage Book V-353  \$1.45

RECEIVED FOR JUNE 1966

NATIONAL GUARDIAN

DATE 2/3/68

BY

#453994

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Foreword by *Dore Schary*
Strength, Growth and Thrust
The War Against Civil Rights
The Birch Line
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Program and Activities
Public Relations
Political Crash Program
The John Birch Society and the GOP
The Birch Map
The Apparatus

About the Authors

BENJAMIN B. EPSTEIN is national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and has studied and written exclusively on problems of prejudice in this country and abroad.

ARNOLD FORSTER is the League's general counsel and director of its civil rights division, and has submitted to the United States Supreme Court numerous legal briefs involving fundamental issues of civil rights.

Report on the John Birch Society 1966 is the fifth book on which Mr. Epstein and Mr. Forster have collaborated. The others are *The Troublemakers*, *Cross-Currents*, *Some of My Best Friends . . .* and *Danger on the Right*. The Anti-Defamation League is one of the nation's leading organizations combating bigotry and working to strengthen the nation's democratic institutions.

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1/9/59

Airtel

TO : SAC, NEW YORK (97-169)
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SUBJECT: PUBLISHERS NEW PRESS, INC.
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On 5/23/58, [redacted] who has provided reliable information in the past, furnished information concerning [redacted] an envelope bearing the return address "P. O. Box 136, Cooper Station, New York 3, New York" which is believed to be the mailing address of the Publishers New Press, Inc., publishers of "The Worker".

Included [redacted] the following information: ROBERT WELCH, Inc., Belmont, Massachusetts, 9/14/58, MR-S.

New York is requested to advise if P. O. Box 136, Cooper Station, New York 3, New York is the mailing address of Publishers New Press, Inc., publishers of "The Worker" as of 9/14/58, and if so to advise Boston of the source for this information.

Dissemination of information concerning the above ROBERT WELCH, Inc. is being withheld pending a reply from New York.

LAUGHLIN

2 - New York (97-169) (RM)
2 - Boston (100-26827)
(100-32899)

DBC:lc
(4)

Lin

2/5/08 BY *sp4 bja/plj*

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-27-2012

RECEIVED

100-32899-2

1/19/59

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (97-169)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (100-26827)
PUBLISHERS NEW PRESS, INC.
IS - C

Remyairtel, 1/9/59.

Dissemination of information being withheld pending your
reply. Please expedite.

LAUGHLIN

2- New York (97-169) (RM)
2- Boston (100-26827)
(1- 100-32899)

DEC:bat
(4)

2/5/08 4p4bfa/ply

100 - 32899 - 3 *tea*

Director, FBI

1/20/59

SAC, Milwaukee (100-0)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH
ANTI COMMUNIST DRIVE
MILWAUKEE DIVISION

On 1/19/59 [redacted]

[redacted] the following information. [redacted] requested that his name be kept confidential at this time.

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On Friday and Saturday, 1/16/59 and 1/17/59, at the Milwaukee Country Club a meeting was held attended exclusively by 15 or 16 leading industrialists in the Milwaukee area, the majority of whom are men of means and position. Apparently the individual most instrumental in getting the group together was [redacted] who is an unusually potent force among industrialists in the area. The group also included [redacted] who is also an exceedingly potent force in Milwaukee. Also attending was a [redacted] who is associated with [redacted] and who is also from Milwaukee.

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At this meeting ROBERT H. W. WELCH was the sole lecturer. He conducted his lecture from prepared cards. The meetings were all business and had no recreation or levity whatsoever. WELCH lectured on Communism and his thesis was the extreme and very urgent need for anti-Communist action in the U. S. Reportedly WELCH is conducting a drive throughout the country to obtain funds to be utilized for anti-Communist activity. Generally stated, WELCH's purpose is to establish ostensible Communist front groups in localities throughout the country which in reality will be anti-Communist groups. He claims that for his purposes a great amount of money is needed and it is needed quickly. According to WELCH, his proposition falls on deaf ears on the East Coast of the U. S., and particularly in New York City, as there they claim to know it all. Reportedly [redacted] heard WELCH conduct a similar meeting in Indianapolis, Ind., [redacted]

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2-Bureau
2-Boston
1-Milwaukee (100-0)
DWF:ng
(5)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-27-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

2/5/02 4046/pj

100-32899-4
105-0-15458-4
mlw
mlw
mlw
Jr

Memo, Director
MI 100-0
1/20/59

According to WELCH's plan, those who contribute to his cause substantially at the outset will be "on the ground floor" and will be nominal directors in the principal office of WELCH's organization, which reportedly is located in Belmont, Mass.

In addition to obtaining large financial contributions at the outset, WELCH also plans to establish a society which will bear the name of a rather prominent Marine Corps member who was killed by Communist elements. (The name of this individual was not obtained by [redacted] Memberships in this society would be obtained at a cost of \$2 per month per man, and \$1 per month for his wife. WELCH also has a magazine or some type of publication called "American Opinion," published at Belmont, Mass. As an indication of the amount of money needed now WELCH indicated that a million dollars would be required.

According to [redacted] the meeting was conducted by WELCH in a very secretive manner. Those in attendance were instructed not to divulge what had transpired to their office personnel or even to their wives at this juncture.

Relative to the background of WELCH, he claims to have [redacted] with whom he had formerly been associated [redacted] Belmont, Mass., or Boston, Mass., and that he and [redacted] disagreed and split up over WELCH's interest in the anti-Communist cause. As a result ROBERT H. W. WELCH is reportedly no longer associated [redacted] It was also indicated that he came to the Boston area from somewhere in Alabama. WELCH indicated at the meeting that he was shortly proceeding to Boca Raton, Fla., where the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers was scheduled to meet soon, and that he will hold a similar meeting there. During the course of the meetings in Milwaukee WELCH did not mention names to any great extent and from available information nothing was mentioned at the meetings relative to the role of the FBI in connection with the investigation and handling of matters re Communism.

[redacted] advised that information had come to his attention that some of those in attendance were skeptical of the bonafides of ROBERT H. W. WELCH but that others seemed somewhat receptive. He emphasized that the great majority of those in attendance on 1/16-17/59 were exceedingly prominent and influential individuals in the Milwaukee area whose loyalties toward the U. S. are unquestioned. [redacted] felt, however, that some of these individuals might be unwittingly taken in by some such activity.

Memo, Director
MI 100-0
1/20/59

A check of Milwaukee indices fails to disclose any information identifiable with ROBERT H. W. WELCH or with the publication "American Opinion."

The foregoing is called to the attention of the Bureau for information purposes. Inasmuch as it is not inconceivable that the initial efforts of WELCH in the Milwaukee area might be followed up, it would be appreciated if the Milwaukee Division could be furnished any available background on the matter.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Boston

DATE: January 28, 1959

FROM : Director, FBI (62-104401)

SUBJECT: ROBERT E. W. WELCH
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

4/25/84 Sp6bjd/mke

Re Milwaukee letter dated January 20, 1959.

Bufiles reflect that Robert E. W. Welch, Jr., Belmont, Massachusetts, irregularly issues the publication "American Opinion," formerly known as "One Man's Opinion." This magazine consists of reviews of current topics by various authors and comments and observations by Welch. Many of its articles are anticommunist. Welch sends copies of the publication to the Bureau and Bureau letter dated March 11, 1957, to Welch acknowledged receipt of one issue of the magazine. Bureau files contain no additional identifiable information concerning Welch. The Bureau has not investigated Welch or his publication.

The Boston Office is instructed to conduct discreet inquiries to obtain background data concerning Welch. These inquiries must be conducted with caution and good judgment to prevent any embarrassment to the Bureau and possible accusations that Welch is under investigation by the FBI. In this connection, no open inquiries or investigation should be conducted. That office should also remain alert for any information concerning Welch's alleged anticommunist activities to insure that these activities do not encroach upon the Bureau's jurisdiction and responsibilities.

Milwaukee and Boston Offices should remain particularly alert for any information concerning Welch's plan to organize ostensible communist front groups which in reality will be anticommunist groups. Any information concerning Welch's activities should be promptly brought to the Bureau's attention.

2 - Milwaukee (100-0)

100-32899-5

100-32899-5
C
LQA
Lynn
Hutchins

Currie
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DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

2/4/59

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT A. W. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

By letter dated December 23, 1958, G-2 Governor's Island, New York, forwarded to this office extracts from a volume entitled "The Politician". The volume, according to G-2, was written and privately printed for distribution by ROBERT WELCH, President of ROBERT A. WELCH, Candy Manufacturers, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and contains allegations highly critical of the President of the United States and other members of the United States Government.

G-2 advised that a copy of this volume was mailed to a member of the United States Army on August 31, 1958.

A photostatic copy of the extract furnished by G-2 is enclosed for the information of the Bureau.

A review of the Boston indices reflects the following information:

[redacted] a highly sensitive source, provided information concerning a group of 3x5 cards contained in an envelope bearing the return address, P.O. Box #136, Cooper Station, New York 3, N.Y., believed to represent subscriptions to the "Daily Worker". Included among these was one bearing the notation:

b7D

Robert Welch, Inc.
Belmont, Mass.
9-14-58 MR-S

(BS 100-23036-606)

On January 19, 1959, [redacted] General Post Office, New York, New York, advised SA [redacted] that P. O. Box 136, Cooper Station, New York 3, New York was leased by the "Daily Worker", 50 E. 13th Street, New York City from 1938 until discontinued on June 26, 1958.

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2 - Bureau (62-104401) (RM) (Enc.1) (BS 100-26827-347)
1 - Boston (100-32899)

DBC/mtm
(3)

2/5/02 Sp4bjd/plg

BS 100-32899

Reference is made to Milwaukee letter to the Director, dated January 20, 1959 entitled "ROBERT H. W. WELCH, ANTI-COMMUNIST DRIVE, MILWAUKEE DIVISION" referring to lectures by WELCH on January 16 and 17, 1959 at the Milwaukee Country Club calling for urgent need for Anti-Communist action in the United States.

(BS 100-32899-4)

Reference is also made to New York letter to Director, dated September 23, 1957 entitled [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED], which refers to a speech given in Cincinnati, Ohio on September 3 or 4, 1957 by ROBERT H. W. WELCH, Jr., Belmont 78, Massachusetts, sponsored by the Circuit Riders, Inc.

(BS 105-0-1545)

Cincinnati letter to Boston, dated May 6, 1958 described the Circuit Riders as a Methodist lay organization financed by a number of prominent Americans to expose Communist influence in religious organizations.

(BS 105-0-1545a)

The Boston Telephone Directory for 1959 shows the Welch Candy Company at 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Mass. and ROBERT H. W. WELCH, Jr., at 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts. Robert Welch, Inc. is listed as 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts.

It is noted that ROBERT H. W. WELCH, believed identical with the subject, is editor of the pamphlet "American Opinion", published by Robert Welch, Inc., Belmont 78, Massachusetts, which appears to be Anti-Communist in nature.

It is suggested that as a speaker and writer WELCH may have subscribed to the "Daily Worker" in the name of Robert Welch, Inc. for use as source material.

LEAD

THE BOSTON DIVISION:

Will obtain background data concerning WELCH in accordance with Bureau letter to Boston, dated January 28, 1959.

Director, FBI (62-104401)

February 20, 1959

SAC, Boston (100-32899)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH, Jr.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

2/5/02 sp4bjc/plf

Re: Bureau letter dated January 28, 1959.

The records of Harvard Law School, Alumni Records Office, were examined by SA [redacted] on February 6, 1959, through [redacted]. These records reflected that ROBERT H. W. WELCH, Jr. was at Harvard Law School from 1919 to 1921 and received no degree. He received his A.B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1916 and as of both 1948 and 1953, was Vice President in charge of Sales and Advertising for the James O. Welch Company, Candy Manufacturers, 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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[redacted] also provided the 35th Reunion Report of the Harvard Law School Class of 1922, published in 1957.

In addition to the above information on ROBERT H. W. WELCH, Jr., this report reflected that he married [redacted] in 1922 and had [redacted].

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It also showed that he was in the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis during World War I and during World War II was on the Advisory Commission of the Office of Price Administration. In addition, from 1951 to 1954, he was a member of the Belmont, Massachusetts School Committee and had served as a Director of several small businesses and one bank. From 1951 to 1957, he was a Director of the National Association of Manufacturers, being its Vice President from 1955 to 1957. The report listed two publications by Mr. WELCH: "May God Forgive Us" (1952) and "Life of John Birch" (1954).

On February 12, 1959, SA [redacted] examined Volume 1 of "Who's Who in New England," dated 1948. In addition to the information already set out, this publication reflects that Mr. WELCH was born in Edenton, North Carolina, December 1, 1899. He was a founder of the Oxford Candy Company in 1922 and its Sales Manager in 1935. From 1940 to the time of publication, he had been Vice President and Director of Sales and Advertising of the James O. Welch Company, Cambridge, Massachusetts. As of the date of publication, he is shown as a member of the Board of Directors of Robert Welch Publishing Company; Chairman of the Board of the Washington Commission

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REGISTERED MAIL
Encs. 2

RWA:CAK
(3)

100 - 32899 - 8

BS 100-32899

of the National Association of Candy Manufacturers; a member of the Board of Directors of the United Prison Association, and during World War II was a member of the Office of Price Administration Committee for the candy industry. He is shown to be the recipient of the Kettle Award by the candy industry in 1947 and a member of the Massachusetts Chess Federation (Board of Directors, 1940-1944).

Mr. WELCH is shown as a Republican and lists his clubs as: Harvard (Boston and New York), Skating (Boston), Oakley Country (Board of Directors). He is author of "Road to Salesmanship" (1941) and has contributed articles to business publications. He is further shown as a public speaker on business, economic and social conditions. His home address is shown as 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts, and his office as 810 Main Street, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts.

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau is a letter dated February 11, 1959, from G-2, Governors Island, New York, and a copy of "The Politician" written by WELCH and furnished to this office by G-2.

G-2 has been advised that no investigation is being made of this matter. C.

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78. Massachusetts

November 13, 1958

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

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Under separate cover today, I am sending you by registered first-class mail, return receipt requested, copy of an extremely confidential document. I am doing so at the request of your good friend [Redacted]

This manuscript is not intended for publication at all. But I am putting it into the hands of a quite limited number of patriotic Americans -- mostly close friends of mine -- who can be depended on to treat it with the confidence requested, and to take reasonable precautions to safeguard the document while it is in their possession. For I believe it will give even so well-informed a man as yourself a certain amount of additional insight into some aspects of the conspiracy which we face.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

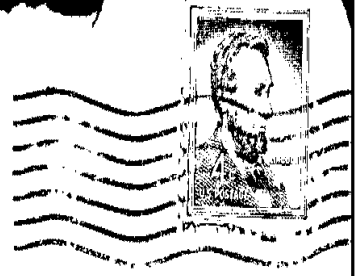
RW:mlp

Robert Welch

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/5/02 BY SP4/bja/plg

AMERICAN OPINION

Belmont 78, Massachusetts



PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/18/01 BY 60321

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Circumstances Surrounding US Army Accession to "The Politician"

IDENTIFYING DATA: "The Politician" written by Robert Welch

PREPARING UNIT: 108th CIC Group

DATE OF SOI: 14 January 1959

EXHIBIT 1

a/s for Sp46/jdy

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 14 1959	
FBI - BOSTON	

Shinn

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Circumstances Surrounding US Army Accession to "The Politician"

IDENTIFYING DATA: Registered mail receipt dated 26 November 1958
for article from [redacted] to Robert
H. W. Welch, Jr., American Opinion, Belmont 78,
Massachusetts

b6
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PREPARING UNIT: 108th CIC Group

DATE OF SOI: 14 January 1959

EXHIBIT 2

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 14 1959
FBI - BOSTON
2/13/59 1040/pj

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 14 1959	
FBI - BOSTON	

Shum

REGISTERED NO. _____

Value \$ 1.00 Spec. del'y fee \$ _____

Fee \$ 50 Ret. receipt fee \$ 10

Surcharge \$ _____ Ret. del'y fee \$ _____

Postage \$ 1.04 ☐ Airmail



From _____

To Robert R. W. Welch Jr.

American Opinion Pollman 78

POD Form 3806
Sept. 1955

c43-16-70493-3

Wells

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The sender is not required to pay a registration fee providing for full indemnity coverage (up to the limit of \$1,000). However, if the actual value of the matter mailed exceeds \$25, the sender must pay a fee of at least 55 cents. Some matter having no intrinsic value, so far as the registry service is concerned, may involve considerable cost to duplicate if lost or destroyed. The sender is privileged to pay a fee for insurance against costs of duplication if desired.

Domestic registered mail is subject to surcharge when the declared value exceeds the maximum indemnity covered by the fee paid by \$1,000 or more. Claims must be filed within 1 year from date of mailing.

Consult postmaster as to fee chargeable on registered parcel post packages addressed to foreign countries.

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: Circumstances Surrounding US Army Accession to "The Politician"

IDENTIFYING DATA: Letter, with letterhead American Opinion, an informal review, dated 13 November 1958 (with envelope postmarked 17 November 1958) signed "Robert Welch," and addressed to [REDACTED]

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PREPARING UNIT: 100th CIC Group

DATE OF SOI: 10 January 1959

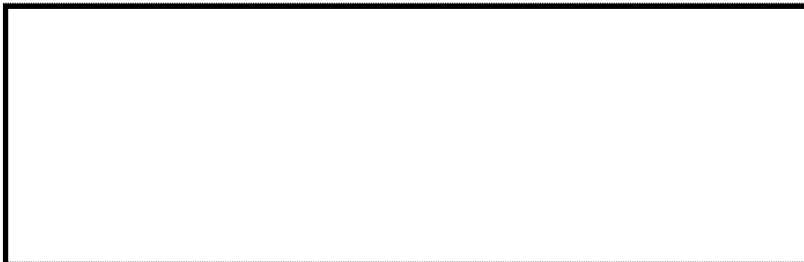
EXHIBIT 3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/3/08 BY 4046 J/PLJ

Post Office Box 2344
Boston 7, Massachusetts

February 20, 1959

Referral/Consult



Dear Sir:

Re: Robert H. W. Welch, Jr.

This will acknowledge receipt of



This office will appreciate receiving any further pertinent information which may come to your attention in this matter even though no active investigation is being conducted.

Very truly yours

L. L. Laughlin
L. L. LAUGHLIN
Special Agent in Charge

100-32899
DBC:CAK
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/3/05 BY 4216ja/plj

OK - [unclear]
cc SAC AT (F)
59-13- dated
2/17/59

100-32899-9

Post [unclear]

DIRECTOR, FBI

May 12, 1959

SAC, BOSTON (62-

CANSA CORPORATION
21 North Broadway
White Plains, New York
INFORMATION CONCERNING

HERBERT A. PHILBRICK, Rye Beach, New Hampshire, furnished the following information to SA FRANK P. WILLIAMS on April 30, 1959. He advised that for some years he has been developing an idea for a TV series to be entitled "WORLD WAR III." The theme of the series would be that the United States and the free world are presently at war with the Soviet Union; though there is no shooting, the struggle is desperate, and the results could be tragic.

PHILBRICK stated that in January, 1958, while still employed by the New York Herald Tribune, he was visited by one ROBERT WINSTON, a retired Navy Captain who had written a book called "The Pentagon Case," using the pen name Col. VICTOR FOX. WINSTON, presently publisher of Freedom Press, Inc., had come to ask PHILBRICK to review his book. During the conversation, PHILBRICK mentioned his idea of the above-described TV series. WINSTON was very enthusiastic and with PHILBRICK's permission stated he could get financial backing for such an enterprise. PHILBRICK told him to go ahead.

He advised that for the next several months WINSTON attempted to get backing from several non-profit foundations with no success. In November, 1958, PHILBRICK was invited to be guest of honor at a dinner at the University Club, New York City, on November 5, 1958, which was sponsored by [redacted]. Enclosed is a photostatic copy of a list of invited guests obtained from PHILBRICK. It is noted that the Director's name appears on this list.

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cc: 2-Bureau (Enc. 4) (RM)
2-New York (RM)
3-Boston (62-
(1- 66-1021
(1-100-35599

HERBERT A. PHILBRICK)
ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.)

FMC:cm
(7)

ALL INFO CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/82 BY SP/BJP/BJ

00-32899-10

ME 62-8

Following the dinner, PHILBRICK was approached by [] and WINSTON with the idea of setting up a profit making corporation to finance the above TV series. That very night several people committed themselves to buy shares in the corporation. [] WINSTON. []

[] and ROBERT WELCH, a candy manufacturer from Cambridge, Massachusetts. The first meeting was held on December 2, 1958, in [] Empire State Building, New York City. The name CASCA CORPORATION was adopted. PHILBRICK was elected Chairman of the Board, and the following officers were elected: WINSTON President, []

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[] noted that []

PHILBRICK continued that after the incorporation meeting there followed a long drawn out controversy over the terms of the contracts for himself and WINSTON. PHILBRICK was determined that he should retain control over the subject matter of the TV series and method of presentation. WINSTON attempted to take over complete control of the project and claimed the original idea of the TV series was his. It was at this time that PHILBRICK began to suspect the motives of WINSTON. [] At this same time he began hearing from friends [] had a reputation as a notorious anti-Semite. He faced [] with these accusations and [] denied being anti-Semitic. [] stated he has been unjustly accused of anti-Semitism, because at one time he sincerely believed that Arab lands should not have been confiscated to create the State of Israel and he so stated publicly.

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PHILBRICK advised he became more apprehensive of the motives of WINSTON [] following the completion of a pilot film for the TV series. This film dealt with the story of HARRY DEXTER WHITE. When the film was shown to the stockholders, there were several remarks from the floor concerning WHITE's background. One remark was that WHITE was not his real name and the film should have emphasized that WHITE was Russian born and came of Russian-Jewish parents. Another remark passed was that the first name of M. GREGORY SILVERMASTER, mentioned in the film, was NATHAN and this should have been emphasized.

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PHILBRICK stated that under the terms of new contracts signed recently he has retained exclusive control over the treatment of the subject matter including dialogue. This came about only because [redacted] backed him on the Board of Directors. [redacted] however, he is still apprehensive about the motives of WINSTON [redacted] and fears he may be becoming involved with notorious hate-peddlers and anti-Semites. He advised that [redacted] a loyal, discreet person, is employed in [redacted] and has reported to PHILBRICK [redacted] [redacted] has reported numerous secret meetings involving WINSTON [redacted] and WELCH, from [redacted] [redacted] but PHILBRICK did not have details of same. He further reported that WELCH [redacted] are busily engaged in the organization of "JOHN BIRCH CLUBS" throughout the country with great attendant secrecy. PHILBRICK has attempted to determine the purpose of these "JOHN BIRCH CLUBS," but his questions have been met with silence by [redacted] and WELCH. He advised that the next meeting of the JOHN BIRCH CLUB in New York City is to take place at the apartment of one [redacted] on May 15, 1939.

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PHILBRICK advised he was furnishing the above for information. He said [redacted] possession of information concerning the activities of WINSTON [redacted] WELCH. He recommended [redacted] being discreet and available for interview. However, in view of the fact that PHILBRICK has advised he will keep the Boston Division informed regarding the above, no interview of [redacted] is contemplated.

In addition to the Guest List mentioned above, there are enclosed for the Bureau photostatic copies of:

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- (1) Personal Resume furnished by WINSTON
- (2) Letter from [redacted] to PHILBRICK explaining his stand on the Israel situation
- (3) Outline and purpose of the new TV Series

The New York Office is requested to search its indices on all persons mentioned herein, other than PHILBRICK, and ROBERT H. WELCH, and advise the Bureau of the results of this check.

ME 62-

With reference to ROBERT H. WELCH, this individual appears identical with "ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.; INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)," Boston File 100-32899, Bufile 62-104401, concerning whom the Bureau has been previously advised. WELCH is also the subject of SAC Letter No. 59-13, Section F, dated March 10, 1959.

With reference to [redacted] Bureau and [redacted] attention are directed to BOSTON 100-32899, entitled [redacted]

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Files of October 21, 1955, furnished information that [redacted] who is possibly identical, is widely known for his racist beliefs and has been the subject of an extensive investigation by another Government agency.

With reference to [redacted] Bureau's attention is called to SAC Letter No. [redacted] dated February 9, 1959, Section 2, entitled [redacted] in which the Bureau advised that [redacted] almost fanatical on the subject of Communism, and very anti-Semitic.

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Based upon information provided by PHILLERICK, it has been impossible to locate identifiable information in Boston indices relating to other individuals mentioned.

100-32899-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1959	
FBI - BOSTON	

[Signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC: 100-32899

DATE: 5/20/59

FROM: [REDACTED]

SA

b6
b7CSUBJECT: Robt. H.W. Welch, Jr.
Info Concerning
ISALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/5/02 BY 4046jap/aj

On 5/5/59 [REDACTED] personally appeared at this office and furnished the attached letter concerning the John Birch Society and the above captioned person. He said he did not desire that this letter be returned to him. Also he made available a copy of the booklet entitled, "The Life of John Birch, which likewise he did not desire be returned to him.

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He said that he was at Gloucester, Mass about [REDACTED] months ago on business and there met a [REDACTED]. This firm sells varnish. [REDACTED] said he believed that [REDACTED] was a former [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED]. He said that [REDACTED] recommended to him the booklet and he later got a copy of it, which is attached. He declared that this booklet is very ardently anti Communist and that the John Birch Society is so very persistent and have written the attached letter to attend one of their meetings, that he got to wondering if this organization is alright and possibly not what is claimed. He said that if the Society is alright, it is awfully good but if it is not he thought it ought to be checked further, and is "bad" from a security viewpoint. Also he had a post card, sent to him with this letter, asking him to respond as to whether he would attend a meeting of this society on May 30, 1959 at the home of [REDACTED] 9:30 AM. with [REDACTED] which he got detailed description of how to get to [REDACTED].

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[REDACTED] added that per [REDACTED] if he, [REDACTED] was interested sufficiently in the society, he could establish such a society in [REDACTED]. He said that [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] in Gloucester and is very much "tied up" in the John Birch Society, as is a number of professional people in Belmont, Mass. [REDACTED] was given no info, though he asked if the FBI, Es. had anything on it.

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Subsequently on the same date, [REDACTED] called back from [REDACTED] and said that when he got home he found that a copy of instant book, a letter and a brochure of this society had been sent to him by Welch. He said that partially through this material and other things he had heard, he now felt sure that this group (society) and Welch were okay, not communistic but might be a little over zealous. Since there is a file on the subject, this memo, letter and the booklet are being filed in that file for future reference.

Also on the same date, [REDACTED] personally appeared at this office re the John Birch Society and was similarly given no info. He said he had received a letter from [REDACTED] regarding his attendance at the John Birch Society meeting held on 5/10/59. He was not attending. He declared that the society was reported anti Communist but he wanted to check further on it. He was appropriately advised. He said it concerned, reportedly Advancement of the Ideals of American Life under the direction of Robt. Welch.

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Indices neg. re John Birch Society.

SAC, BOSTON (62-3810)

CANSA CORPORATION
22 North Broadway
White Plains, New York
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/20/02 BY SP4BGP/PL

Re Boston letter dated 5/12/59.

HERBERT A. PHILBRICK, Rye Beach, New Hampshire, reported to
SA FRANK P. WILLETTE on 6/1/59 that a new stockholder in the
Cansa Corp. is one [redacted] (ph) [redacted]
[redacted] (ph) [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] painted. PHILBRICK stated he received the above information
from [redacted] who

possesses a great deal of background information on [redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted]

[redacted] and that the Office of Naval Intelligence had
been greatly concerned over his activities.

PHILBRICK also reported that [redacted]

[redacted] had resigned as [redacted]
following repeated attacks by [redacted]
ability. He was replaced as [redacted]

[redacted] however,
remains on the [redacted] PHILBRICK stated he knew
nothing of [redacted] political inclinations.

PHILBRICK stated he received unintentional information from
[redacted] that Col. OTTO SKORZENY, famous Nazi para-
trooper who assaulted Mussolini during World War II, was to be
in New York during June, 1959 and was going to be entertained
by [redacted] did not say who was sponsoring
SKORZENY's trip to New York.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 5) (RM)

2 - New York (RM)

3 - Boston (1 - 62-3810)

(1 - 66-1020)

(1 - 100-32899)

(HERBERT A. PHILBRICK)

(ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.)

PPW:maj

(7)

100-32899-12

BS 62-3810

Enclosed for the Bureau is a report prepared by PHILBRICK regarding his attendance at a JOHN BIRCH CLUB meeting held on 5/15/59 at the home of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Also included is a copy of an application for membership in the JOHN BIRCH CLUB and petitions urging the President of the U. S. not to attend any "Summit Meetings." Enclosed also for the Bureau is a booklet entitled, "The Life of John Birch," by ROBERT H. W. HITCH, JR.

Any additional information concerning the above corporation received from PHILBRICK will be promptly forwarded to the Bureau and New York Divisions.

(F) ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) --- Information has been received that Welch resides at 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts; maintains an office at 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts; is an officer and director of the James O. Welch Company, candy manufacturers, 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and is editor and a director of the publication "American Opinion," which he irregularly publishes and issues of which have in the past contained anticommunist articles. Neither Welch nor his publication has been the subject of Bureau investigation. In January, 1959, he met with a group of leading industrialists of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area, at which time he lectured on communism, the urgent need for anticommunist action in the United States and his desires to establish ostensible communist front groups which in reality would be anticommunist groups. Welch indicated he is conducting a drive to obtain funds to be used for

anticommunist activity and that his plans would necessitate large financial contributions. No further information has been received indicating Welch's success in putting his program into effect.

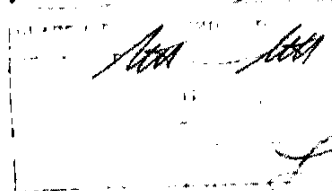
The personnel of your office should be made aware of Welch's activities and contemplated plans. You must be certain that your employees are alerted to promptly report to the Bureau any information concerning further activity by Welch in this regard. In the event information is received regarding any activity of Welch in the furtherance of setting his plan into operation, no investigation should be made but the Bureau should be promptly advised.

3/10/59

SAC LETTER NO. 59-13

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/30/83 BY JPB/Btj/aa

100-32899-13



6/17/59

PLAIN TEXT

AIRTEL

REGISTERED AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (62-3810)

CASCA CORPORATION
21 North Broadway
White Plains, New York
INFO CONCERNING

Re Boston letter to Bureau dated 6/10/59.

[redacted] was interviewed on 6/11/59 by SA FRANK P. WILLETTTE while [redacted] advised that ROBERT WINSTON resigned as president of Casca on 6/4/59 as the result of pressure brought to bear by PHILBRICK and [redacted]. Upon his resignation WINSTON sent an extremely insulting letter to [redacted] accusing him and PHILBRICK of using Communist tactics in getting rid of him. [redacted] stated that [redacted] has [redacted] the corporation.

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[redacted] stated [redacted] the purchase of stock in Casca from mysterious individuals under strange circumstances. Recently [redacted] in the amount of \$2000. for the purchase of 20 shares. In an accompanying letter [redacted] advised that the check had been "approved" by the "Committee for 40 States" and he was very insistent that he and the Committee remain anonymous. [redacted] saw the check and the letter he quickly put them in his pocket. [redacted] also reported that [redacted] for the purchase of stock [redacted] who is allegedly a notorious anti-Semite. [redacted] WINSTON and [redacted] a list of stockholders in the Casca Corp., which is enclosed.

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- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 3) (RM)
- 1 - New York (Info) (RM)
- 3 - Boston (1 - 62-3810)

(1 - 66-1020) (HERBERT A. PHILBRICK)
(1 - 100-32899) (ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.)

FEW:maj
(7)

2/20/62

4p44ja/p8

100-32899-14

BS 62-3810

With regard to WINSTON [] reported that shortly before his resignation WINSTON announced that he was working on a new invention which would earn him a great deal of money. He stated that this invention was an explosive device which would be used from aircraft. In this connection WINSTON received at the Casca offices a shipment of 112 lbs. of magnesium sulfate from the Dow Chemical Co. []

[] WINSTON has been working on this invention in close association with a man named (PHU) [] He has also been in frequent contact with one [] Dow Chemicals, Midland, Michigan.

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[] advised that WINSTON is extremely anti-Communist and anti-Semitic to a point of emotional instability. He frequently makes the unrelated statement that he has never been in a mental institution nor has he ever had any psychiatric treatment. Yet he lives in constant fear of assassination by the Communists. He despises and fears the Anti-Defamation League, saying they have spies everywhere.

WINSTON has always spoken highly of Director HOOVER and the FBI. He claims he is in contact with the White Plains Office of the FBI. He has sent out circular letters stating that the FBI is solidly behind the new TV series that Casca is producing. These letters were sent out without the knowledge of PHILBRICK. WINSTON thought well of the Director's book but stated it lost a great deal of its effectiveness when the Director quoted from Anti-Defamation League reports.

With regard to WINSTON's fanatic anti-Communism, he recently drafted a petition to the Congress of the U. S. calling for the impeachment of President EISENHOWER. WINSTON sent copies of this petition to several organizations seeking endorsement but with no success. Some of the organizations that received copies of the petition were the Committee of 100 and the Committee for Constitutional Action. PHILBRICK interjected that WINSTON asked him to circulate the petition among his FBI contacts which PHILBRICK refused to do. A copy of the petition is enclosed.

BS 62-3810

[redacted] further reported that WINSTON is still in close contact with ROBERT WELCH regarding the organization of John Birch Clubs. [redacted] WINSTON's notes and observations on the John Birch meeting at the apartment of [redacted] in New York City, previously reported by PHILBRICK. [redacted]

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A copy of these notes and observations is attached.

[redacted] stated they are concerned over the type of people that are interested in the activities of the Casca Corp. and are buying stock in the corporation. PHILBRICK stated that several interested individuals have military backgrounds and militaristic attitudes. He noted that WINSTON has a military background and [redacted]

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[redacted] has a German Army background. He and WINSTON are great admirers of everything German and of the Nazi movement.

PHILBRICK stated he intends to maintain close contact with ROBERT WELCH regarding the John Birch movement and will keep the Bureau advised.

LAUGHLIN

OFFICE MEMORANDUM . UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, BOSTON

DATE:

25 JUN 1959

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT:

ROBERT-WELCH INC
BELMONT 78 MASS
-3-17-60-WR-W-D

SM-C

On 5/29/59, [] a source who furnished reliable information in the past, made available imprints of names and addresses of current subscribers contained on addressograph plates maintained by "The Worker", 23 West 26th Street, New York City, an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper.

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A 3" x 5" card containing this imprint is attached hereto for your information.

No copy of this memo is being retained in the NYO.

1- Boston (100-) (RM)

CQS:gms
(1)

2/5/02 4046ja/plj

100-32899-15
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 26 1959
FBI - BOSTON

DIRECTOR, FBI

July 21, 1959

SAC, NEW HAVEN (80-0-1331E)

D. HAYES MURPHY, Chairman
The Wiregold Co.
Hartford, Conn.
INFORMATION CONCERNING

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/11/02 BY SP4Bja/plj

Rebulet to New Haven dated 6/19/59 relating to the captioned individual.

[redacted] advised
on 7/9/59 [redacted] D. HAYES MURPHY, who she related
is 81 years of age.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] has distributed a booklet containing
testimony of Dr. FRED C. SCHWARZ of Australia before a Congressional
Committee entitled "Will You Celebrate Christmas in the Future?" Mr.
MURPHY received correspondence on 5/27/59 from [redacted]
[redacted] the Republic Electric Co. of Davenport, Iowa, asking the price of the
booklet and getting the name of ROBERT WELCH, publisher of "American Opinion"
at Belmont 78, Mass., as one with a plan to stop communism in America.

Another letter of the above named [redacted] dated 6/15/59 to Mr.
MURPHY advised that WELCH was forming "Chapters of Patriots all over the
country" whose members would need the type of information Dr. SCHWARZ
has supplied. He also stated that he had been working "to receive money
for the Americans for Constitutional Action, headed by [redacted]
adding that it was ~~very~~ impossible to get any businessmen to put on a
campaign to receive money.

On 6/9/59 Mr. MURPHY received an invitation from the above mentioned
ROBERT WELCH, to a two-day conference to be held at the Harvard Club,
New York City, the tenth of a series of such conferences have been held
throughout the United States, attended by leading industrialists and
scholars including three recent presidents of the National Association
of Manufacturers. Mr. MURPHY accepted the above invitation on 6/21/59 and
suggested to WELCH the name of [redacted]

[redacted] recently resigned as [redacted]
[redacted] to devote his entire time to "alerting
freedom loving organizations and persons to the communist threat."
[redacted] was also invited by WELCH to attend the above conference.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- ① - Boston (Info)
- 1 - Omaha (Info)
- 1 - New Haven
- RMW:jat
- (5)

Connors
100-32899-16

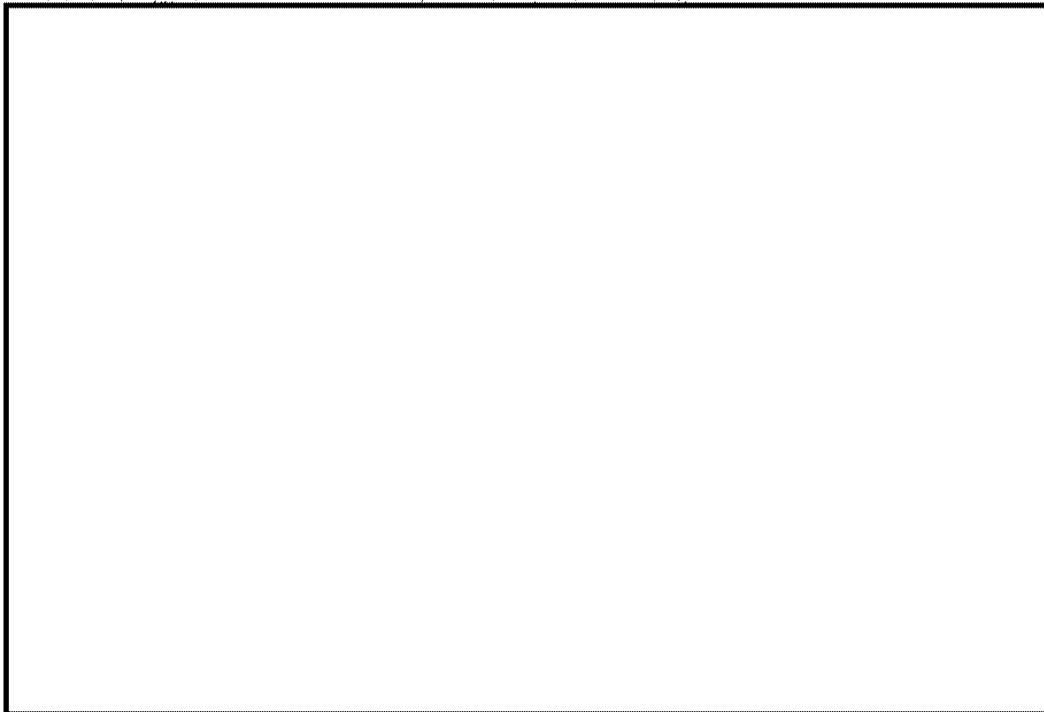
NH 66-0-13318

Under date of 6/17/59 WELCH sent a letter to Mr. MURPHY on stationery of the "Committee Against Summit Entanglements, 185 Concord Avenue, Belmont 78, Mass." announcing that the first formal mailing of the committee was sent out 5/28/59 and resulted in enthusiastic response. It appealed to all "who believe in the inevitable disastrous results of Summit Conferences and entanglements. It enclosed a petition to the President not to attend a Summit Conference. The letterhead identified WELCH as Chairman of the Committee and SPRVILLE BRAINEN, ALFRED BOWLEBERG and CLARENCE MANNION as Vice Chairmen. The Executive Committee of the organization is identified as follows:



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National Board



NY 89-C-1311E

[redacted] the above information with the feeling that possibly ~~unscrupulous~~ persons might be attempting to take financial advantage [redacted] who is a man of means and steadfastly devoted to fighting communism.

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[redacted] was thanked for the information and told that the Bureau could not give opinions in evaluating the positions of the individuals concerned [redacted] stated [redacted] was appreciated and only wanted the FBI to be in possession of the above information.

TRUE COPY



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August 1, 1959

Dear Sirs;

I would appreciate any information you could give me on the following organization; "The John Birch Society" founded by Robert Welch.

This organization supposedly is "Dedicated to the Survival of our American way of life" Is it? If it is I would be interested in it.

I received "Preliminary Information" from the following person; D. Hayes Murphy Chairman The Firebold Company, Hartford Connecticut. I have applied for but have received full information.

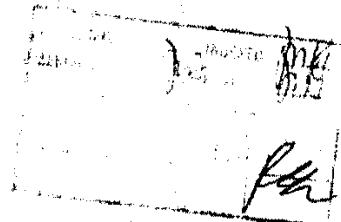
There are so many organizations that hide behind a "Do Good Front" and are Subversive to the American way of Life. Thank You.

Sincerely,



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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/24/84 BY SP6BJA/MLK

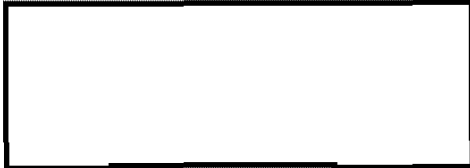


DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

TRUE COPY

100 - 32899 - 17

August 12, 1959

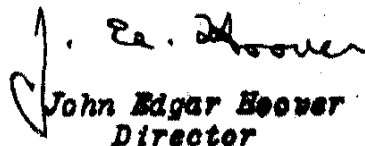


Dear 

Your letter dated August 1, 1959, has been received and the interest which prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the function of the FBI as a fact-gathering agency does not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any publication, individual, or organization. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to comply with your requests for information.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 - Boston (Enclosure) *ELH*

ATTENTION: SAC, Boston

Enclosed is a copy of correspondent's communication. Bufiles contain no identifiable information concerning correspondent.

The John Birch Society and Robert Welch are known to your office. Refer to your files 62-3810 and 100-32899.

Note to SAC, Boston, continued page 2

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

DATE 4/26/84 BY *sp/bpa/ake*



00-32899-18

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Note to SAC, Boston, continued:

D. Hayes Murphy was investigated by the Bureau in 1942 as a special inquiry for the Office for Emergency Management, and no derogatory information was developed. He has over a period of years furnished information to the Bureau which he believed to be of interest. The New Haven Office has reported he is now 81 years of age and is devoting his time to fighting the menace of communism. He has also been corresponding with Welch concerning plans to fight communism. (77-17741)

DIRECTOR, FBI

August 27, 1959

SAC, CHICAGO (100-00)

ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Re SAC Letter 59-13 (F) captioned as above, setting forth information concerning WELCH, a resident of Belmont, Massachusetts, with offices in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The SAC Letter notes that WELCH is Editor and Publisher of "American Opinion", which he regularly publishes and issues. Neither WELCH nor his publication have ever been the subject of Bureau investigation. In January, 1959 he met with a group of leading industrialists at Milwaukee, Wisconsin at which time he lectured on Communism, the urgent need for anti-Communist action, and his desire to establish ostensible Communist front groups which in reality would be anti-Communist groups. Re SAC Letter instructed that any information concerning further activity by WELCH in the furtherance of his plan should be made known to the Bureau.

On August 20, 1959, Dr. HEDWIG S. KUHN of the Kuhn Clinic, Hammond, Indiana, made available certain documents and correspondence received from the captioned individual on the letterhead of "American Opinion" and from the John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Massachusetts, which also appears to be an endeavor of this individual.

There is enclosed herewith for the information of the Bureau, Indianapolis, and Boston, one photostat of each of the following items:

2- Bureau (REGISTERED)(Encls. 9) *prob*
1- Boston (REGISTERED)(Encls. 9)
1- Indianapolis (REGISTERED)(Encls. 9)
1- Chicago
GNF/njb
(5)

100-32899-19
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
AUG 31
FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

1) Petition entitled "Committee Against Summit Entanglements" advising the President not to attend a "summit conference".

2) Flyer entitled "Just a Minute, Mr. Congressman, before you vote our money and our jobs away. . ." This flyer is described therein as issued by the Citizens Foreign Aid Committee, Suite 335, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

3) A booklet entitled "The Scoreboard" described thereon an article which was reprinted from "American Opinion", Belmont 78, Massachusetts.

4) A letter dated July 29, 1959 on the letterhead of "American Opinion" to Dr. KUHN and signed ROBERT WELCH. The letter notes that an unpublished manuscript of "mine, which is quite confidential", would be sent to Dr. KUHN in a matter of a few days. The letter notes that "We have a movement under way of which you undoubtedly have heard nothing--because we are concentrating entirely on building strength and understanding rather than creating noise, of which he [redacted] has been an enthusiastic supporter since it started last December, and which already has local working chapters in four states." WELCH continues by describing the background, methods, and purposes of the John Birch Society and indicates to Dr. KUHN that she will be furnished additional information concerning it.

5) A letter to Dr. KUHN dated July 16, 1959 from WELCH again on the letterhead of "American Opinion" in which he authorizes Dr. KUHN to permit another individual to read the confidential manuscript which he had previously submitted to Dr. KUHN. He describes the manuscript as being entitled "The Politician". He then describes the John Birch Society as a movement which was started quietly by WELCH with a small group of leading industrialists who met with WELCH in Indianapolis during the past December "for the purpose of building strength and understanding to combat this conspiracy--while avoiding publicity to the fullest extent possible, because creating noise is no part of our intention. The movement is growing very rapidly, with extremely encouraging support from a great many patriotic leaders. . ." He indicated at the present time that he did not believe it possible to form regular chapters in Indiana, "for a few months yet", and suggested in the interim contact be maintained by mail.

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6) A letter dated July 2, 1959 from WELCH to Dr. KUHN stating that under separate cover he was sending the recipient a manuscript which is not intended for publication at all and which is being put into the hands of a number of good friends and outstanding patriots who would be depended upon to treat the document with confidence as requested and to take reasonable precautions to safe-guard the document while it is in the party's possession. (This manuscript is entitled "The Politician", a copy of which is in the possession of the Chicago Office and will be described later.

7) John Birch Society bulletin for July, the contents of which are self explanatory.

8) A memo on the letterhead of the John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Massachusetts dated July 4, 1959 entitled "A Preliminary and Condensed Statement". This document describes the John Birch Society as an organization of Americans voluntarily joined together to (1) Combat more effectively the evil forces that threaten our country, our lives and our civilization; (2) To prevail upon fellow citizens to start pulling out of the deepening morass of collectivism and to climb to higher levels of individual freedom and responsibility; (3) To restore with brighter lustre and deeper conviction, the faith-inspired morality, the spiritual sense of values and the gloriously humane traditions of which our Western civilization has been built. The long range objective of the Society has been summarized as less government, more responsibility, and a better world. Continuing, the document states that the John Birch Society was founded by WELCH at a meeting in Indianapolis on December 9, 1958 and has working chapters in six states and additional chapters are being formed every week. Its immediate goal is 1,500 working chapters for December 31, 1959. The home chapter maintains contact with members and coordinates and their activities entirely by mail. There are home chapter members in about 20 states and the list includes many of the most influential and highly regarded men and women in the country.

This memo continues setting forth information under the captions "What is The John Birch Society?", "How are Chapters of the Society Formed?", "Why Haven't I Heard More About The John Birch Society?", "How May I Join The John Birch Society?"

9) Item entitled "Application for Membership", listing dues for membership and the conditions under which membership can be obtained.

The unpublished manuscript of WELCH entitled "The Politician" consists of 287 pages of vicious material designed to show that President EISENHOWER was the chosen successor of former President ROOSEVELT and that his present administration is under strong Communist influence. Typical of the statements contained therein is one appearing on page six, last paragraph, which reads as follows:

"The sad truth is that this tyranny was actually saved, in this period of great vulnerability, by just one thing; by the inauguration, on January 20, 1953, of Dwight David Eisenhower as President of the United States. The circumstances of his election made it politically necessary for him to bring many good men into his government. The rationale of his election, and the temper of the American people, made it imperative for a while that he talk a good brand of anti-Communism. But the Communist influences which completely controlled him kept the reins of that control tight and effective. Subtly, cleverly, always proclaiming otherwise and finding specious excuses for what were really pro-Communist actions, these Communist influences made him put the whole diplomatic power, economic power, and recognized leadership of this country to work, on the side of Russia and the Communists, in connection with every problem and trouble spot in their empire. You only have to look at where we stand today, five years later, at exactly these same spots on the scoreboard reviewed above, to realize the truth of this assertion and the extent of this Communist success. It simply was not possible to lose so much ground, so rapidly, to an enemy so inferior, by chance or by stupidity. The explanation calls for a very sinister and hated word, but one which is by no means new in the history of governments or of nations. The word is treason. It is the province of this treatise to show the part played in these treasonous developments, however unwittingly or unwillingly, by Dwight Eisenhower; and how, as the most completely opportunistic and unprincipled politician America has ever raised to high office, he was so supremely fitted for the part."

In view of the length of this manuscript and because Indianapolis and Boston as well as the Bureau may already have a copy of the manuscript no photostats are being submitted herewith.

Should the Bureau desire a photostat to be prepared by this office the original manuscript can again be obtained from Dr. KUHN and photostated.

The Bureau is requested to advise of its desires.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

DATE: 9/2/59

Re SAC letter #59-13 dated 3/10/59.

[redacted] advised SA FRANK P. WILLETTE [redacted]

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[redacted] the following material received from WELCH, which is enclosed:

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1. [redacted] bulletin of the John Birch Society, wherein new full-time salaried coordinators are announced:

[redacted] Chicago, Ill.
[redacted] Detroit, Mich.
[redacted] Dallas, Texas
(Part-time), home office, Belmont, Mass.
[redacted] Tennessee
(Part-time), New York City
[redacted] St. Petersburg, Fla.

2. Letter from John Birch Society dated 8/3/59 soliciting attendance at a presentation of the background and purposes of the Birch Society, signed by [redacted]

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 9)
- 1 - Chicago (Info)
- 1 - Dallas (Info)
- 1 - Detroit (Info)
- 1 - Knoxville (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (Info)
- 1 - Miami (Info)
- 1 - New York City (Info)
- 2 - Boston (1-100-32899)

FPW:jmh

(11)

Jmh

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/26/84 BY SP6bjk/rkc

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b7C
b7D

100 - 32899 - 20

BS 100-32899

3. Letterhead of the "Committee Against Summit Entanglements."
4. Letter from Committee Against Summit Entanglements dated 8/7/59 soliciting contributions.
5. Copy of proposed full page ad to be run in 50 major newspapers calling for President EISENHOWER to cancel KHRUSHCHEV's visit to the U. S.
6. Copy of League of Rights Intelligence Survey, published in Melbourne, Australia.
7. Copy of "CARIB; Caribbean Anti-Communist Research and Intelligence Bureau." Edited by CZIEGLER ISTVAN, former Colonel, Royal Hungarian Army and published in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic.
8. Reprint from American Opinion entitled "The Scoreboard."
9. Reprint from American Opinion entitled "There Goes Christmas."

For the information of offices receiving copies of this letter, the Chicago office on 8/27/59 submitted to the Bureau certain documents received by Dr. HEDWIG S. KUHN, Hammond, Ind., from the above-captioned individual on the letterhead of "American Opinion" and from the John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Mass., both of which are endeavors of this individual. The John Birch Society was described as an organization of Americans voluntarily joined together to (1) Combat more effectively the evil forces that threaten our country, our lives and our civilization; (2) To prevail upon fellow citizens to start pulling out of the deepening morass of collectivism and to climb to higher levels of individual freedom and responsibility; (3) To restore with brighter lustre and deeper conviction, the faith-inspired morality, the spiritual sense of values and the gloriously humane traditions of which our Western civilization has been built. The long range objective of the Society has been summarized as less government, more responsibility, and a better world. Continuing, the document states that the John Birch Society was founded by WELCH at a meeting in Indianapolis on 12/9/58 and has working chapters

BS 100-32899

in six states and additional chapters are being formed every week. Its immediate goal is 1,500 working chapters for 12/31/59. The home chapter maintains contact with members and coordinates and their activities entirely by mail. There are home chapter members in about 20 states and the list includes many of the most influential and highly regarded men and women in the country.

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No further action is being taken on this matter at Boston.

Director, FBI

12/2/59

SAC, Knoxville (100-0)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
Belmont, Massachusetts;

The JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,
Belmont, Massachusetts
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Referral/Consult

Enclosed for the Bureau and the Boston Division
are copies of a report received by the Knoxville Office which
report is dated November 10, 1959, from the [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

It is reported that the organization has as
its aims the defeat of "the Communist-run United Nations,
stoppage of aid to foreign countries and the fighting of
Communist organizations. It is also alleged that one
"objective is that of opposing unions, especially that
headed by Walter Reuther".

Referral/Consult

The Bureau's attention is invited to [redacted]

[redacted]

No investigation is being conducted of this
organization by the Knoxville office and the above is being
forwarded to the Bureau for information purposes.

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 2) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Boston (Encl. 1) (Info) (Registered Mail)
- 1 - Knoxville

TAS/epm
(4)

100-32899-22

*No action
enter serial
[unclear]*

TRUE COPY

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78, Massachusetts



The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

[redacted] has
[redacted] and expresses a great deal
of zeal for our anti-Communist efforts.

[redacted] states that for approximately [redacted] years
he worked within the Communist Party, as an informant
for the F. B. I. [redacted] revealed this fact on
[redacted] then severing all connection with the
Communist Party.

If it is permissible for you to tell us, we should like
very much to have a confirmation or denial from you of
[redacted] and the favor would be much appre-
ciated.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert Welch
Robert Welch

RW:cm

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/30/84 BY [signature]

100-32899-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1950	



TRUE COPY

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b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

December 8, 1959

100-32899-16

file here

Mr. Robert Welch ✓
"American Opinion"
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Welch:

Your letter dated December 1, 1959, has been received.

In response to your inquiry, [redacted] FBI on a confidential basis from [redacted] was compensated for his services. He was, however, never a Special Agent of this Bureau.

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b7C

This information should not be construed as a recommendation, clearance or nonclearance of [redacted] by the FBI.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

100-32899-24
SEARCHED *53* INDEXED *21*
SERIALIZED *21* FILED *21*
DEC 11 1959
FBI - BO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *4/30/84* BY *CP6bjd/ave*

- 1 - Boston (enclosure)
- 1 - San Francisco (enclosure)

ATTENTION: SACs, Boston and San Francisco

Enclosed is one copy of correspondent's communication.

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted] who was discontinued [redacted] after disclosing his informant status [redacted] He publicly disclosed himself as a former informant of the FBI [redacted]

Information concerning Robert Welch is contained in Paragraph F of SAC Letter 59-13.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Boston

D:

✓ FROM : Director, FBI (62-104401)

F

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS;
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Referral/Consult

Re Knoxville let dated 12/2/59 captioned as
above enclosing copies [redacted]

[redacted]
which report stated that in a tape of a speech by Welch
which was played at the 10/21/59 meeting of the John
Birch Society, Welch made the statement that "he had
[redacted]
[redacted]

SAC, Boston, is instructed to contact Welch
and call his attention to the fact that the Bureau has
been apprised of his statement. Welch should be advised
to identify the "life-time friend" and to furnish specifics
concerning his having access to the files of the Bureau.
Welch should be advised that due to the confidential nature
of the Bureau's files his statement is erroneous and creates
an erroneous impression by people hearing the statement.

1 - Knoxville (100-0)

100 - 32899-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 10 1959	
FBI - BOSTON	

2/11/02 *sp/bx/ply* *See me*
J

SAC, Boston
Re: Robert E. Welch, Jr., Belmont, Massachusetts;
The John Birch Society, Belmont, Massachusetts
Information Concerning (Internal Security)
62-104401

He should be advised to have this statement deleted from all copies of the tape recording of his speech incorporating the statement and to refrain from making such a statement in any form in the future. This matter should be handled promptly and the Bureau immediately advised of the results thereof.

It is noted that the Boston Office is in possession of Welch's business and residence addresses.

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

12/22/59

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS;
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

4/30/84

Sp6 kjf/ke

Rebulet dated 12/16/59.

On 12/21/59, accompanied by SA [REDACTED] I interviewed Mr. ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. at the office of "American Opinion," 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts. I explained to Mr. WELCH that it had come to our attention that a tape of a speech by him which was played at a meeting of the John Birch Society at Knoxville, Tennessee, on 10/21/59, reportedly contained a statement that "he had access to the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation through a lifetime friend who was acting as an advisor to the Bureau." Mr. WELCH immediately denied this, stating he was sorry but there was apparently a misunderstanding and under no circumstances did he make such a statement as it would be completely erroneous.

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Mr. WELCH suggested that in all probability the information received by the FBI pertained to a statement he had made concerning his association with J. B. MATTHEWS as contained on pages 160 and 161 in his book entitled, "The Blue Book of The John Birch Society." Mr. WELCH furnished a copy of this book which is forwarded herewith as an enclosure. The statement in question, which starts with the last sentence on page 160, reads as follows:

"And while of course I can make mistakes too, I know from the way my opinion of various characters, formed entirely independently, has then proved to coincide with the opinion of J. B. Matthews, time after time when I have had a chance to check with him, that I have a fairly sensitive and accurate nose in this area.

Enclosure
Registered Mail

LLL:maj
(3)

100-32899-26

BS 100-32899

"And of course I also have the benefit of J. B.'s files, almost incredible memory, and judgment built out of long experience, to lean on whenever I wish."

Mr. WELCH advised that the information as contained in "The Blue Book of The John Birch Society" had been recorded by him and copies of these recordings had been played in various parts of the country in connection with the activity of the John Birch Society. A copy of the pertinent tape was played back and the wording contained in the tape was identical with that in "The Blue Book of The John Birch Society." Mr. WELCH said that on occasions he also has referred to "J.B." (MATTHEWS) as a "life-long friend."

Mr. WELCH said that at the present time there are John Birch chapters in fifteen different states. He said he is probably looked upon as being "odd" as he has given up a good business to work on a project in which he firmly believes with no compensation. Mr. WELCH said he had considered having [redacted] arrange for a meeting between the Director and himself but, knowing of Mr. HOOVER's many responsibilities, has not made such an attempt as he felt the Director is too busy with his many duties. No comment of any nature was made to Mr. WELCH in this connection.

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For the information of the Bureau, the office of "American Opinion," of which Mr. WELCH is editor and director, is located on the first floor of an insurance building near Belmont Square, Belmont, Massachusetts. Eight persons, both male and female, appeared to be engaged in typing in this room. Mr. WELCH also has the use of a shipping room in the basement which contained a considerable amount of pamphlet material. Three employees were working in the shipping room. Two additional employees were also observed in another office room which is apparently used for the purpose of interviews and also to record the talks of Mr. WELCH.

Since Mr. WELCH has specifically denied making any statement indicating access to records of the FBI either in person or by tape recording, no further action is contemplated in this matter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)

DATE: 1/15/60

FROM : SUPV. F. M. CONNORS

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
Belmont, Massachusetts;
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont, Massachusetts;
INFO CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

On 12/21/59, ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. made available a copy of The Blue Book of The John Birch Society which is being made an exhibit to the case for possible future reference.

FMC:maj
(1)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

2/5/02 *Sp4bjal/pgj*

100-32899-27

a d

f

62-104401

Date: December 31, 1959

Referral/Consult

To:

From: John Edgar Hoover, Director

Subject: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

For your information and the completion of your files Welch was interviewed by Special Agents of this Bureau on December 21, 1959, at which time he denied making any such a statement and advised that none of his taped speeches contain such a statement. Welch further advised the interviewing Agents that he has no access whatsoever to the files of this Bureau nor does he have any sources who have access to such files.

- 1 - Boston (100-32899)
- 1 - Knoxville (100-0)

100-32899-28

2/11/02

So4bxa/plg

Conrad Jue

SAC, NEW YORK (100-0)

2/3/60

SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT WELCH
SM - C

Re New York letter to Boston dated 1/18/60 captioned
as above.

For the information of New York, ROBERT WELCH mentioned
in your letter is identical with ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. as
contained in SACLET 60-5 (Section C).

Although the Boston Division maintains a file on WELCH,
no investigation is being conducted in accordance with
Bureau instructions.

2 - New York (100-0) (RM)
① - Boston (100-32899)

FRC:maJ
(3)

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/3/02 BY SP4BJA/ply

100-32899-29

(C) ROBERT H. WELCH, JR. - INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) -- SAC Letter 59-13 (F) dated March 10, 1959, set out background data concerning Welch, a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, and his anticommunist campaign, Bufile 62-104401. Welch has written a manuscript entitled "The Politician," which is a vicious attack on the political life and beliefs of President Eisenhower. Welch has not published the manuscript but has had a limited number of copies printed which he has distributed or "loaned" to friends or individuals who he believed would be interested in its contents. The Bureau is in possession of a copy of it. Therefore, if the manuscript is offered to you for reproduction purposes, it will not be necessary to send copies to the Bureau.

Welch also created an organization in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, called "The John Birch Society," the long-range objective of which has been summarized as "less government, more responsibility, and a better world." Chapters of this Society are coming into existence in various parts of the country. The Bureau has received several inquiries concerning the Society and is in possession of a copy of "The Blue Book," which sets forth information on the Society.

The above is furnished for information purposes. In the event a chapter of The John Birch Society is organized in your territory, the Bureau should be notified promptly and furnished a resume of the chapter's activities. The Bureau is particularly interested in any efforts by subversive elements to take over or use this Society or its chapters. No investigation should be conducted.

1/26/60
SAC LETTER NO. 60-5

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

5/2/84 *Sp6 bja/mke*

100-32899-30

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JAN 27 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

[Signature] ✓

b6
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, BOSTON

DATE: 1/18/60

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-0)

SUBJECT:

ROBERT WELCH
SM - C

Referral/Consult

Attached herewith for your information is one

The files of this office do not contain any information which can be identified with WELCH, and this is being furnished for your information.

2- Boston (Atts.2)(RM) *ent*
1- New York (10000)

WPD:ras
(3)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/3/02 BY SP4BJA/PLJ

100-32899-31

SEARCHED <i>ad</i>	INDEXED <i>ad</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ad</i>	FILED <i>ad</i>
JAN 20 1960	
FBI - NEW YORK	

See attached

Date

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Subject

Robert M. Helms

Aliases

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

☐

Exact Spelling

☐

Main Criminal Case Files Only

☐

Restrict to Locality of

☐

All References

☐

Criminal References Only

☐

Main Subversive Case Files Only

☐

Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

☐

Subversive References Only

☐

Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number

Remarks

100-25226-606

602-5810-4 P3

100-25226-99-16

Requested by

Squad

Extension

File No.

Searched by

(date)

Consolidated by

(date)

Reviewed by

(date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical

? - Not identifiable

NI - Not identical

U - Unavailable reference

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *2/5/02* BY *SP4BJA/plj*

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8/5/02 BY SP4/ba/plg

100-32899-33

John Birch - 8
100-8549-950 P. 3 -
-8572-1137 THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
-148-895 P. 5
-922-
Belmont 78, MASSACHUSETTS
Chairman, Belline-Martino
Ferry, George, Ohio Valley C.P.
name in 1950
Committee for WPA
Federal Natl. C. W. P. A.
WPA
Birch

To A Good American:

910 1/2 Pearl St.
Madison Park

The salutation is not general, but specific. We have definite reasons for believing that you are a patriotic citizen, of good character and of good will towards other men and women who deserve it, or you would not be receiving this message. But to what extent you are willing to take action, to save for our children and their children some semblance of the glorious country and humane civilization which we ourselves inherited, we do not know.

The John Birch Society is composed of people like yourself. It was founded on December 9, 1958, in Indianapolis, by this writer and a small group of outstanding men who had come from various parts of the country at my invitation for a two-day meeting. You have probably heard nothing about the Society, because we avoid publicity as well as we can. This is not because there is anything at all secret about our activities, but because our whole purpose is to build strength and understanding rather than create noise.

But we now have full-time paid staff men, called Coordinators, and local working chapters formed and supervised by these Coordinators, in nine states. We also have a Home Chapter, which maintains contact with its members and coordinates their activities entirely by mail. There

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7130
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100-32899-33

are already members of this Home Chapter in about twenty states, and the list includes many of the most influential and highly regarded men and women in our country.

A word about our name is in order. John Birch was a young Christian missionary, from a farm near Macon, Georgia, who was in China when we entered World War II. He joined Chennault's forces as a volunteer, organized Chennault's intelligence, rose to the rank of captain in the United States Army, and served with unsurpassable bravery and brilliance throughout the war. Ten days after V-J day, while in uniform, on a peaceful and official mission for our government, he was brutally murdered in cold blood by our ~~"allies," the Chinese Communists.~~ You have probably never heard of John Birch, simply because the Communists in Washington planned it that way. We believe that his short but outstanding and memorable life so typifies the best of America that we have named our organization in his memory.

Basically, The John Birch Society is a group of Americans who have voluntarily joined together: (1) To combat more effectively the evil forces which now threaten our country, our lives, and our civilization; (2) to prevail upon our fellow citizens to start pulling out of the deepening morass of collectivism, and then climb up the mountain to higher levels of individual freedom and responsibility than man has ever achieved before;

and (3), to restore, with brighter lustre and deeper conviction, the faith-inspired morality, the spiritual sense of values, and the ennobling aspirations, on which our western civilization has been built. The long-range objective of the Society has been summarized as less government, more responsibility, and a better world.

We are digging far more deeply into the problems we face, however, and building far more solidly in our coordinated effort to overcome the destructive forces around us, than can be indicated in this letter. In order to explain, fully and clearly, the background, methods, and purposes of The John Birch Society, we have been holding two-day meetings of small groups of leading business men, professional men, and conservative scholars, from all over the United States, regularly since last December. The presentation made at Indianapolis, and repeated at these meetings, has also been put on tape recordings, which are now being played back by our Coordinators to small local groups in many areas.

But this same presentation is now available in a printed book, brought out quietly by ourselves because we have not wanted the publicity of commercial publication. In this presentation we have attempted: (1) To outline the nature and the frightening advance of the threats against our nation, our religion, and our civilization; (2) to evaluate these dangers, and place them in their proper perspective, against the backdrop of world

history and the rise of western civilization; (3) to set forth a positive philosophy and program to which men of good will, religious ideals, and humane traditions may rally with confidence and determination; (4) to offer leadership which can make the dedication of such men and women more constructive and more fruitful; and (5), to describe in detail the organization, function, and procedures of The John Birch Society.

The cost to ourselves for each of these books we mail out is approximately two dollars. And although we are not in the book-selling business, we believe that the financial solvency and soundness of our Society (which is incorporated as a non-profit educational corporation under Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts) is a basic requirement for progress. While the Blue Book of The John Birch Society is not for sale in any general sense, therefore, it will be sent postpaid for two dollars to anybody who is invited to become interested in what we are trying to do, and how, and why. And we shall be glad to have you consider this letter as such an invitation to yourself.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

This letter is being sent to you at the suggestion of b6
b7C

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Boston

DATE: 1/19/60

FROM : SAC, Pittsburgh (62-0)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts
INFORMATION CONCERNING

By letter dated 1/9/60 [redacted]

[redacted] furnished this office with a leaflet captioned "The John Birch Society, Belmont 78, Massachusetts," bearing a printed signature of ROBERT WELCH, which she had received a few days previously in the mails.

It is noted that this leaflet contains typin on page four which states that the letter was sent to [redacted] at the suggestion of [redacted]

The files of this office contain no previous information concerning [redacted] however, [redacted] is reported [redacted]

The files of this office contain no information indicating that any of these organizations are known to be subversive in character.

The files of the Pittsburgh Office are also negative concerning The John Birch Society; however, inasmuch as this organization is located within your territory, the leaflet furnished by [redacted] is being forwarded to your office.

2 - Boston (Enc. 1)(RM) *gm*
1 - PittsburghJTM/jep
(3)DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/16/02 BY [redacted]

100-32899-34

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (if any)

INTERNAL USE ONLY

TO: ANFKB(100)

FROM: ROBERT WELCH INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

TO: G-2, O&T Division

FROM: 108th CIC Group

DATE: January 1960
By: DeBarbier 1/937/rah
COMMENT NO. 1

Forwarded herewith is additional material pertaining to ROBERT WELCH INCORPORATED.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Incl
Afs, 9 AF (Incl 4)
w/1 Exhibit

WILSON C. MYERS
Lt Col, AI(Armor)
82

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/11/02 BY 4946ja/plg

100-32889-35

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 20 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 11 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

AGENT REPORT

(GDS 200-120-70)

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 70, Massachusetts

16 December 1959

2. NUMBER OF PAGES OR FILE NUMBER

001130

3. REPORT OF PREVIOUS

On 2 December 1959, [redacted]

[redacted] Boston University, Boston, was interviewed, at her request, at Headquarters, Region III, 100th SIG Oron, Boston Army Base, Boston, concerning information which she felt would be of interest to the United States Government. Source stated substantially as follows:

In June 1959, [redacted]

[redacted] Source visited the German Consulate, 462 Marlston Street, Boston, in an effort to gain assistance in [redacted] in Boston. Source spoke with [redacted] a member of the Economic Section of the Consulate. [redacted]

[redacted] suggested that she contact Mr. Robert Welch, who maintains offices at 305 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, under the name of ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED. [redacted] stated that Welch is the editor of American Opinion, a monthly publication which is delivered, gratis, monthly, to the Consulate.

Source reported to Welch and after a brief discussion, during which he ascertained [redacted] and satisfied himself [redacted] was not a Communist, [redacted]

[redacted] attitude towards Communism, Welch advised that all Germans are still Nazis at heart and, therefore, anti-Communist. Welch informed Source that the John Birch Society was founded in 1958, but had been relatively inactive until January 1959, when he started to devote more time to it. [redacted] the office of the Society, which is located in the basement at 305 Concord Avenue, Belmont. [redacted]

material published by Welch, [redacted] the remainder of the time was spent in doing [redacted]

The Society did not become really active until January 1959, when Welch held a meeting at a country club, name unknown, in Belmont. Approximately 50 persons were invited to this meeting, all of whom were approved by Welch prior to the actual invitation. Welch was the sole speaker for this occasion. His speech lasted for eight hours and was Welch's evaluation of the Communist threat to the United States, and the need for an organization to awaken and protect the United States from this menace. Source heard a taped recording of the speech, the length of the tape, six hours, and the speech was too long and boring for easy assimilation. This meeting was a bid for membership into the John Birch Society, and those present were given membership blanks to complete and submit, if interested. The membership gained from this meeting is unknown.

(Continued)

4. TYPED NAME AND TITLE OF SPECIAL AGENT

5. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ANNUAL REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 December 1959

3. CONTINUATION SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

603738

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

to Source. All files concerning membership, finances, correspondence, and research material pertaining to the Society is maintained in the Society office at 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Employees of the office, as of [redacted]

were:

[redacted] was an authority. He is extremely intelligent and a persuasive speaker. [redacted] is presently employed [redacted]

employed as [redacted]

[redacted] address unknown, [redacted] publications for delivery and carries mail to the Post Office. He is not a member of the Society and receives a salary [redacted]

[redacted] (phonetic) residing at an unknown address in Boston, [redacted]

[redacted] He has many acquaintances [redacted] circles in Boston and vicinity and is active in Society work among these groups. He receives [redacted] salary.

[redacted] (phonetic) address unknown, [redacted] just prior to his employment in [redacted] He alleges to have been employed by [redacted] He is being sought for a responsible position within the Society. [redacted]

[redacted] She obtained her position through [redacted] who became acquainted with Welch when Welch delivered a lecture at an unknown Protestant church in Belmont.

[redacted] and probably more concerning the Society than any person other than Welch. She works [redacted] [redacted] is not in sympathy with the Society, and would probably be happy to provide a government agency with any desired information. [redacted] has frequently expressed to Source her dislike for the Society, and she has never become a Society member.

(Continued)

5. TYPE OF NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

100th CIB Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DA 5341

REPLACES GPO AND FORM 20-1, JAN 47, WHICH MAY BE USED

THIS IS A GOVERNMENT PROPERTY OFFICE 154 - O-28484

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

December 1959

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, 16-58868-1

40738

REPORT OF PROGRESS

held by [redacted] who occupied the position now [redacted] for reasons [redacted] unknown to Source. [redacted] was connected with an organization called the [redacted] and Source recalls reading material written by him and published in the name of the Liberty Lobby, San Francisco, California, which was extremely vitriolic in its criticism of President Eisenhower for his alleged pro-Negro and pro-Semitism.

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The John Birch Society was named in honor of John Birch, an American Baptist missionary, who was killed, according to Welch, by the Chinese Communists, on 25 August 1945. A book, entitled, "The Life of John Birch", written by Welch, was published in 1954 by the Henry Regnery Company.

The ultimate aim of the Society is to become a third political party in the United States and, eventually, rule of the country. This is to be accomplished by uniting all anti-Communist organizations and individuals under the leadership of the John Birch Society. Source could not cite specifics as concerns the program of evolution into a political force.

According to [redacted] the Society is presently organized into approximately 38 separate chapters, with a total membership of 1200 persons. Source is personally aware of the existence of chapters in Belmont and Boston, but has seen correspondence from chapters in Chicago, Illinois; New York City, and unknown cities in California and Florida.

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Each chapter is required to have a weekly meeting, which is held in the home of the chapter leader. In Belmont, the meeting is on Thursday, in the home of [redacted]. Discussion is supposed to center around the Weekly Bulletin, which is written and edited by Welch, personally, and mailed to each chapter. A taped reproduction of the speech made by Welch, at the organization meeting in January 1959, is on hand in each chapter. This tape, six hours in length, is used whenever the chapter receives a request for a speaker. Normal procedure is to divide the speech into three sessions of two hours each. The taped speech is used because Welch does not desire individual Society members to make speeches; they only make introductory remarks and answer questions after the tape has been heard. Society members are to be alert to opportunities to present the taped lectures, through normal social, church and business contacts. Welch stresses contact with Catholic organizations because, although a Protestant himself, he feels that the Catholic church is more militant in its stand against Communism. The decision to present the taped speech is made only by the chapter leader, who personally makes the presentation. A party of interested persons is usually held at the home of one of the contacts and, after a brief discussion, the taped speech is presented. [redacted] of the Boston chapter, is particularly active in

b6
b7C

(Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DA 341

AGENT REPORT

(SEE 200-220 10)

1. NAME OF AGENT OR NAME OF SOCIETY

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 76, Massachusetts

2. DATE RECEIVED

16 December 1959

3. OFFICE SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

()

4. REPORT OF FIELD

organizing these meetings. Response to the initial two-hour session determines whether meetings will be held to present the two remaining two-hour sessions. No notes or other method of reproduction are permitted at these meetings. Source is unaware of any presentations being made to members of the military, either individually or in groups; however, in August or September 1959, Welch spoke at the Harvard Club, New York City, and Source recalls giving invitations to two retired and one active duty U. S. Army general officers, names not recalled. Source does not know whether they attended or not. **SUBJECT** made at least one previous speaking appearance at the Harvard Club in New York City, details unknown.

Persons who show interest in taking active participation in anti-Communist activity, after attending a taped session, are given the opportunity to join the Society. Source is unaware of any specific investigations conducted on new members, but is aware that inquiries are made, on a personal basis, through social contacts. A new member is given a membership card and signs a request for membership. Members pay \$2 per month dues; however, those who can afford to, pay more. Each chapter leader is required to submit a monthly report to Society Headquarters, covering meetings, membership, and activities. There reports are all maintained by []

and reports all pertinent information to Welch.

Welch has prepared a so-called "Five Book" which is an outline of his taped speech, but which is much more moderate in its approach, to the extent of the Communist penetration of the United States Government, since it is intended for sale to the general public. As of September 1959, this book had not been printed.

At the time of the visit to the United States by Soviet Premier Khrushchev, instructions as to how Society members should act, specifics unknown, were sent out by Welch, together with black arm bands, which were to be worn by Society members for the duration of Khrushchev's visit. Source heard discussions as to the possibility of shooting Khrushchev, but doesn't believe that the conversants were actually serious in their intent.

It is planned that a moving picture of Welch, presenting his speech, will be made and utilized in lieu of the taped version. Welch has stated that \$20,000 has been pledged for this purpose. Future plans also call for the establishment of reading rooms containing anti-Communist literature to be open to the general public. All chapters have been required to submit names of potential recruits of written material from the Society.

In the activities outlined above, Source is unaware of any specific activities undertaken by the John Birch Society. []

(Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

South CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

AGENT REPORT

(SR 34-330-10)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 December 1959

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

603738

4. REPORT OF FACTS

[redacted] the office of the John Birch Society, [redacted] (see EXHIBIT I). Source did not [redacted] Welch because, since he is suspicious of everyone, he would probably accuse [redacted] it with some ulterior motive in mind.

Because of [redacted] to the office of ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED, to organize Welch's files. Aside from Welch, other employees of the Corporation were:

[redacted] residing in [redacted] who is [redacted] and has been with him [redacted] as his [redacted]

[redacted] Robert Welch, who does clerical work [redacted]

[redacted] correspondence for the Corporation. [redacted] gained employment, [redacted] by answering a newspaper advertisement [redacted] which was placed by Welch.

Other persons known to be associated with ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED are:

[redacted] located in the [redacted] receives a salary, believed to be approximately [redacted] per year, from Welch, in addition to Welch sponsoring [redacted] These news commentaries were dictated by written instructions from Welch. The fact that Welch was [redacted] was not aired [redacted] for Welch's publication American Opinion.

[redacted] formerly employed by [redacted] is on Welch's payroll as [redacted] for American Opinion. [redacted] a former Communist, [redacted] when the German army occupied [redacted] spends much of his time in [redacted] which appear in American Opinion are entitled, [redacted]

An unknown retired U. S. Army general, who acts as a lobby at Congress, representing Welch's views. This general resides in Washington and is on Welch's payroll.

Welch also contributed towards defraying expenses incurred by nationally-known radio commentator Fulton Lewis, Jr. (Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF AGENT

108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF AGENT

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DA FORM 341

1 APR 52

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1959 O 284874

AGENT REPORT

(SR 200 320-10)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

2. DATE SUBMITTED

16 December 1959

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

60-778

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

The monthly magazine American Opinion, published by ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED, prints eight thousand copies monthly, approximately half of which are paid for by subscription. The remainder are mailed to persons who may be interested. A small number are distributed by David Bean to various drug stores and other stores where magazines are sold for general sale to the public. Issues are mailed to prospective customers whose names are obtained through the John Birch Society, other Welch sympathizers, and exchange of mailing lists with other anti-Communist publications, details unknown. In addition to articles written by [redacted] Welch receives material from [redacted] of the staff of the late U. S. Senator Joseph McCarthy, Albert C. Wodensayer, General, USA (retired) and frequently receives material from the office of U. S. Senator Barry Goldwater. Source believes that [redacted] is on Welch's payroll.

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Welch edits all material appearing in the magazine and writes many articles himself. In addition to the magazine, Welch published many pamphlets which are distributed free and sold through advertisements in American Opinion. Source can recall two: "Report of American Bar Association" and "Why People Become Communists". Source particularly recalls the latter because, [redacted] a magazine published by a Jesuit publishing house, from which Welch copies his pamphlet. The Welch pamphlet does not indicate its source.

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[redacted] are 318 files on Communism, divided into sections such as Communism in: Government, Churches, Education, Labor, etc. These files are also divided into geographical breakdowns to include most of the countries of the world and many organizations in this country and throughout the world.

Extensive files are maintained on leading political, military, and business leaders of the world. Typical selections under this section of Communists are: U. S. Senator John Kennedy, General of the Armies George C. Marshall, deceased, former President Harry S. Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt, as well as the United States Supreme Court and the American Bar Association.

The material for these files is selected, by [redacted] newspapers and material received from various sources, to include [redacted] to innumerable newspapers, both domestic and foreign. A large segment of the files is devoted to anti-Communist organizations and personalities such as: J. Edgar Hoover, Herbert Hoover, Herbert Philbrick and General LeMay. Welch uses the files for research material when preparing a speech or writing an article.

b6
b7C

(Continued)

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

AGENT REPORT

(SR 100-110-10)

ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED
Belmont, Massachusetts

DATE SUBMITTED

10 December 1960

SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER

60-100

REPORT OF FINDINGS

Money for ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED, is obtained from contributions. Source heard [redacted] soliciting funds from acquaintances throughout the nation, by telephone, to assist him to combat the coming visit of Khrushchev to the United States. Source heard Welch consent that he had received pledges of \$100,000. This money was spent by the Committee Against Soviet Entanglements, which, if not operated entirely by Welch, is certainly influenced by him. Much of this money was spent in full-page newspaper advertisements agitating against the visit of Khrushchev and urging the public to contact their congressmen. Source notes that Welch received money from [redacted]

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[redacted] told [redacted] that Welch left the business just prior to January 1960, because of [redacted] assistance that [redacted] not get the candy business involved in his anti-Communist activities. At the same time, Welch was told, by [redacted] to establish a bank account separate from that maintained in the name of the candy company.

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Source stated that she told much of the foregoing to [redacted]

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b7C

1. TYPE NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SOURCE

108th CID Group

2. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DA FORM 341

AGENT REPORT

NAME OF SUBJECT

AGENT

DATE FILED

16 December 1950

ROBERT WELSH, PROOFREADER
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

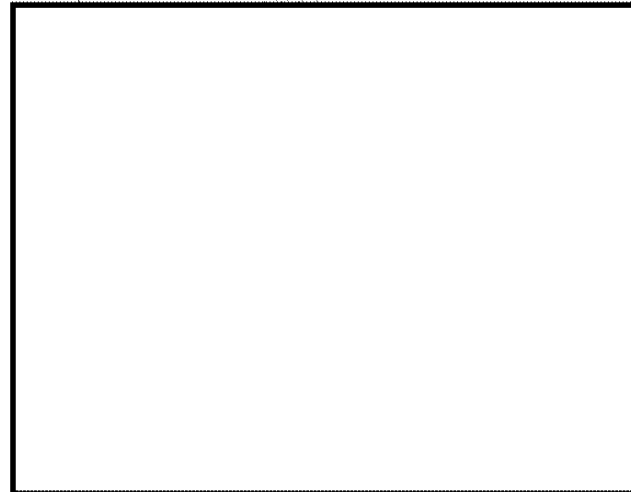
FILE NUMBER

63

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

On 15 December 1950, the files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 100 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts, were examined and concerning [redacted] and revealed the following information:

Name:
Date of Birth:
Place of Birth:
Last Foreign Residence:
Nationality:
Marital Status:
Children:
Date of Arrival in United States:
Port of Arrival:
Occupation:



b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF AGENT

108th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF AGENT

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

AGENT REPORT

(SR 326-320-10)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT ROBERT WELCH, INCORPORATED Belmont 78, Massachusetts	2. DATE SUBMITTED 22 December 1959 3. CONTROL SYMBOL OR FILE NUMBER 603738
--	---

4. REPORT OF PROGRESS		
(LOCAL AGENCIES) The files of the following agencies were checked concerning [redacted] source of information concerning SUBJECT, on dates shown with results indicated:		
18 December 1959	Massachusetts Board of Probation, Boston, Massachusetts	No Record
18 December 1959	Bureau of Identification, Boston, Massachusetts	No Record
AGENT'S NOTES: The Massachusetts Board of Probation is a central repository for all records of arrest which result in conviction in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Records of arrests for drunkenness and some minor traffic violations which do not result in conviction are recorded for court reference. Massachusetts law forbids the disclosure of arrest or conviction records for offenses committed prior to an individual's seventeenth birthday.		

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b7D

b6
b7C

5. NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT [redacted] 108th CIC Group	6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT [redacted]
---	---

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

DA FORM 341

REPLACES DA FORM 341, 1-55, WHICH MAY BE USED.

MADE IN U.S.A. GPO : 1959 O 284541

STANDARD REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 601738

Disclosure of the contents of this exhibit will compromise Source.

Preparing Agency: Regional Office, 100th St.
Boston, Mass.
Boston, Massachusetts

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

EXHIBIT I

100-32899-36

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 9 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE
DATE 01-30-2012

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (ROBERT WELCH)		Address of subject BELMONT 78, MASS		Character of case SM-C	
Complainant's address and telephone number [Redacted]		Complaint received <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date 7-4-60 Time 10 AM		[Redacted]	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build [Redacted]
	Age	Weight	Eyes	Complexion	Birth date and Birthplace
	Scars, marks or other data				

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE **2/11/02** BY **SP4BJA/PLJ**

Facts of complaint

Complainant called and said he was receiving literature from Subject Society, and a booklet entitled "The Blue Book of the John Birch Society," which claimed to be anti-communistic. He wanted information regarding said society.

The complainant was advised of the FBI's policy in regard to the confidential nature of our inquiries and files and further advised that the US Department of Justice Subversive Section Wm D C handled inquiries re: organization on the A C list.

INDEX NAMES.

Action Recommended

100-32899

(Agent)

Writer office at 2:30, and was advised same as above.

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-0)

February 24, 1960

SAC, NEW HAVEN

Secret

"THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY"
"AMERICAN OPINION"
INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)

Enclosed for the Bureau and Boston are autostat copies of a postcard captioned "STAY AWAY - U.S.A. - The Summit Leads to Disaster" which was furnished to this office by [redacted]

[redacted] Better Business Bureau, it being noted that this card was postmarked at Hartford, Connecticut, and addressed to [redacted] an employee of the Better Business Bureau. As will be noted, this card indicates it is copyrighted 1960 by American Opinion, Belmont 78, Massachusetts. b6 b7C

As the Bureau has been previously advised, a chapter of The John Birch Society exists in Hartford, Conn., and it appears that this mailing may have been handled by the Hartford chapter.

This is for the information of the Bureau and the Boston Office.

2 - Bureau (Enclosure - 1) (RM)
2 - Boston (Enclosure - 1) (RM) (1A 14)
1 - New Haven (62-0)
HEW:PGM
(5)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAR 2 1960
FBI - NEW HAVEN
5/2/84 BY *sp/bja/mk*

100-32899-37
107 127

Sum

Director, FBI

March 3, 1960

SAC, Detroit (100-27934)

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - X

Re Detroit letter to Bureau, February 16, 1960, and
SAC Letter 60-5(c), January 26, 1960.

The following additional information regarding captioned
Society has come to the attention of the Detroit Office.

5/20/84 JPL/bja/lak
[redacted] appeared at the Detroit Office on February 23, 1960,
and advised that he had written a letter to the captioned
Society at Belmont, Massachusetts, on [redacted]
requesting a copy of the "Blue Book" published by the Society.
He said that on [redacted] he received the "Blue
Book" along with a letter [redacted] thanking
[redacted] for his inquiry. The letter [redacted] also told
[redacted] that there were two local chapters of the John Birch
Society in Detroit and that [redacted] was [redacted]
[redacted] for the Society. One copy of [redacted] letter
was designated for [redacted] at Detroit.

b6
b7C

[redacted] continued that he was subsequently contacted
at his home by [redacted]
[redacted] stated that he was [redacted]
a local chapter of the captioned Society. [redacted] told [redacted]
that one of the main objectives of the Society was to act as
a pressure group to oppose the enactment of federal legislation
opposed to the opinions and beliefs of the Society. [redacted]
said that he first told [redacted] that he would like to join and
paid the \$2.00 membership fee which was for one year. However,
as [redacted] continued to talk with him at greater length, he
changed his mind about the Society and [redacted] returned his
\$2.00 membership fee. [redacted] said that the more [redacted] spoke
to him about the Society, his suspicions of the aims of the
Society were aroused and he began to feel that it was perhaps
a Communist front organization. It was this latter fear that
caused him to change his thought about joining the Society.

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b7C

2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
1 - Boston (Info) (REGISTERED)
1 - Detroit
WEL:DHD
(4)

100-32899-38

[] recalled that in his discussion with [] he was told that Chapter Number 60 meets at [] residence on Sundays, although he did not know the frequency of these meetings. He also added that he had initially written to the Society because of literature that he had received from the "American Opinion" which commented upon the Society and which address is identical with the Society address in Belmont, Massachusetts. [] explained that he is []

b6
b7C
b7D

[] He said that in thinking back about the Society it was, he felt, his duty to bring this information to the attention of the FBI.

The indices of the Detroit Office indicate that [] [] was a Source of Information of the Detroit Office until she was discontinued in [] because of the non pertinent nature of the information she could furnish and the lack of regular contacts by her with sources who could furnish more valuable information. []

b6
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[] was developed as a Source of Information because of her voluntary contact with the Detroit Office in [] At that time she told the interviewing []

[] but had quit because she believed the organization was a "leftist group". She also indicated to the interviewing Agent that she was strongly anti-Communist in her feelings.

The Detroit Office also interviewed [] [] on February 18, 1960. [] had written to the Director volunteering his services and indicating his concern over the threat of Communism to the US. He also inquired in the letter for the Bureau's opinion of the John Birch Society. During the interview with [] he stated that he had attended one meeting of the Society in Detroit held at the home of []

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[] is an acquaintance of [] He said that literature was distributed at this meeting and a speech delivered which was very anti-Communist in nature as was the literature. However, [] said that he did not join the John Birch Society and has not attended any further meetings of the Society because he was not certain as to the ultimate aims of the group.

DE 100-27934

One copy of this letter is being designated for the Boston Office in view of the information furnished by [redacted] regarding his correspondence with the Society's headquarters.

b6
b7C

Detroit will furnish the Bureau any other pertinent information received regarding the Society.

TO: CHIEF CLERK

Subject

ALLK 63 03 01

Address

Birth Date

Birthplace

☐ Exact Spelling

All References

☐ Main Subversive Case Files Only

☐ Subversive References Only

☐ Main Criminal Case Files Only

☐ Criminal References Only

☐ Main Subversive (If no Main, list all Subversive References)

<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
--

☐ Restrict to Locality of

File & Serial Number

Remarks:

File & Serial Number

Remarks

File & Serial Number	Remarks
John Birch	Security
	- 15

100-32899. 20.

100-0-44164A

100-32899-11

Requested by

Squad	
-------	--

Extensica

File No.

Searched by

(date)

Consolidated by

```
{date}
```

Reviewed by

(date)

File Review Symbols

I - Identical

? - Not identifiable

NI = Not identical

U - Unavailable reference

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/5/02 3. *WSP/PP*

DIRECTOR, FBI

3/30/60

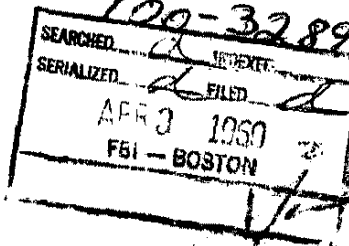
SAC, DALLAS (100-10360)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - X

On 1/25/60, [redacted] Richland Hills Police Department, Fort Worth, Texas, advised SA JOHN W. FAHN that [redacted] who attends [redacted] had turned in to his department on the previous day the following printed material, which [redacted] had found near the curb in the street of 3200 block of Kingsbury Street, Fort Worth, on 1/24/60, at about 7:30 P.M.:

- 2/11/63 [unclear] [unclear]*
- (1) One copy of "THE BLUE BOOK OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY," copyright 1959, by ROBERT WELCH.
 - (2) One copy of a booklet by ROBERT WELCH titled "THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, Belmont, 78, Massachusetts."
 - (3) Ten "Application For Membership" forms.
 - (4) Five booklets titled "THE LIFE OF JOHN BIRCH," by ROBERT H. WELCH, JR., published by HENRY REGNERY COMPANY, Chicago, 1954.
 - (5) Six booklets titled "MAY GOD FORGIVE US," by ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.
 - (6) Fourteen copies of "ONE MAN'S OPINION," a magazine published by ROBERT WELCH, INC., Belmont, 78, Massachusetts, including issues for February, April, July and November 1956, and issues for February-March, May, July-August, September (6 copies) and November, 1957.
 - (7) Twelve copies of "AMERICAN OPINION," a magazine published by ROBERT WELCH, INC., Belmont 78, Massachusetts, including issues for February, March, June, September, and December, 1958, and issues for January, March, June, September, October, November and December 1959.

C
2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Boston (RM)(Info.)
1 - Dallas (100-10360)
JWF:EM
(4)



DL 100-10360

- (8) One copy of a reprint from "ONE MAN'S OPINION," September 1956 issue, titled "A LETTER TO THE SOUTH ON SEGREGATION," published by ROBERT WELCH, INC., Belmont 78, Massachusetts.
- (9) Five copies of a reprint from "AMERICAN OPINION," February 1958 issue, titled "WHY PEOPLE BECOME COMMUNISTS," published by American Opinion, Belmont 78, Massachusetts.

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Officer [redacted] advised that an address label found with this material reflected that the foregoing printed material had been mailed to [redacted] from THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, Belmont 78, Massachusetts. Same had been mailed from Boston, Massachusetts, on 1/19/60.

b6
b7C
Officer [redacted] informed that [redacted] advised that he and companions [redacted] were riding around at the time they found this material, which in their opinion had been lost or discarded near the curb in the 3200 block of Kingsbury Street, Fort Worth.

b6
b7C
On 3/28/60, [redacted] Retail Merchants Association, [redacted] advised that THEODORE BERNARD HART [redacted] of [redacted] has been known to the files since July 1927, and was last checked 7/16/59. HART is currently retired, but was formerly self-employed in real estate and insurance. He was born 12/7/92, place not stated. Twelve retail accounts were reported, all of which were satisfactory.

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On 3/28/60, the following advised they have no record on [redacted] THEODORE BERNARD HART: [redacted] Identification Division, [redacted] Central Records Division, and [redacted] Identification Division, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, Fort Worth, Texas.

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b7C
b7D
On 3/29/60, Dallas Confidential Informants [redacted] and [redacted] who are familiar with some CP activities in the [redacted] WORTH area, and who have furnished reliable information in the past, advised that THEODORE BERNARD HART and [redacted] are unknown to these informants.

b6
b7C
On 3/30/60, [redacted] [redacted] advised she was unable to locate any clippings or other references to any of the following: [redacted] and JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, [redacted]

DL 100-10360

THEODORE BERNARD HART and ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.

No investigation in this matter is contemplated and the foregoing is submitted for information purposes only.

F B I

Date: 4/14/60

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via RADIOGRAM _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTENTION: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR., BELMONT, MASS., JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,

BELMONT, MASS., INFORMATION CONCERNING PAREN INTERNAL

SECURITY END PAREN. BUFILE 62-104401. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A BOSTON SCHOOL
TEACHER, ON 4/14/60 APPEARED AT BOSTON OFFICE. SHE REQUESTED
ONE HUNDRED TWENTYFIVE COPIES OF DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT CON-
CERNING COMMUNISM, APPEARING IN MARCH, SIXTY FBI LAW ENFORCE-
MENT BULLETIN WHICH WAS QUOTED IN CAMBRIDGE-ROMERVILLE, MASS.
EDITION OF BOSTON AMERICAN ON THREE TWENTYTHREE SIXTY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED SHE IS A MEMBER OF JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY BUT IS
REQUESTING COPIES OF DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT AS AN INDIVIDUAL
AND FOR DISTRIBUTION AMONG FELLOW TEACHERS AT THEIR REQUEST.
WHEN ADVISED HER REQUEST WOULD BE FORWARDED TO BUREAU THROUGH
THIS OFFICE, [REDACTED] STATED SHE HAD PREPARED WRITTEN REQUEST
WHICH SHE INTENDED TO FORWARD BUREAU DIRECTLY IN EVENT COPIES
NOT AVAILABLE AT BOSTON OFFICE. BOSTON INDICES NEGATIVE ON

BS 100-32899
KPW:GM
(1)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

100-32899-40

BS 100-32899

SUBSEQUENTLY [REDACTED] EMPLOYED ON WELCH'S PUBLICATION, THE QUOTE AMERICAN OPINION END QUOTE AT BELMONT, MASS., TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BOSTON OFFICE FOUR FOURTEEN SIXTY STATING HE THOUGHT DIRECTOR'S ARTICLE, WHICH APPEARED IN BOSTON AMERICAN, WOULD BE HELPFUL IN RECRUITING MEMBERS TO THEIR ORGANIZATION, NAMELY THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, WHICH ATTEMPTS TO COMBAT COMMUNISM. [REDACTED] REQUESTED PERMISSION TO HAVE REPRINTS MADE OF THE ARTICLE. HE WAS TOLD HIS REQUEST WOULD BE CONSIDERED AND HE WOULD BE ADVISED. HE THEN SAID HE WOULD HOLD HIS REQUEST IN ABEYANCE SINCE [REDACTED] A MEMBER OF THEIR ORGANIZATION, WAS IN PROCESS OF WRITING TO WASHINGTON FOR COPIES OF THIS ARTICLE.

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b7c

END

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

April 13, 1960

SAC, DETROIT (100-27934)

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
(FLINT, MICHIGAN CHAPTER #62)
INFORMATION CONCERNING
IS-C

Re SAC letters 59-13 (F), 3/10/59 and 60-5 (C).

On March 29, 1960, Captain [redacted] NA, Flint, Michigan, Police Department, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised SA [redacted] that on February 1, 1960, he received information concerning a small group of individuals in Flint who had organized with the apparent intent of combating Communism. He stated that he later learned from a [redacted] that this group is known as The John Birch Society. According to [redacted] JOHN BIRCH was a Captain in the U.S. Army who was murdered in China by the Communists. Captain [redacted] stated that he expressed an interest in the group merely to learn more about them. Several days later he received a note from [redacted] inviting him to attend the February, 1960, meeting and enclosed a Bulletin and application for this society.

The Bulletin reflects that the next regular meeting of this society will be held at the headquarters of The American Party, 113 West Fourth Avenue, on Sunday, February 14, 1960, at 4:30 P.M. It reflects that only two previous meetings have been held in Flint, those being in December, 1959 and January, 1960, at this same location. It also reflects that Attorney [redacted] is the Michigan Director.

A copy of this Bulletin and application is enclosed for the Bureau's information.

Captain [redacted] stated that he attended this meeting and learned that the following are the six members of this [redacted]

- 2 - Bureau (Encls. 3) (REGISTERED)
 - 1 - Boston (Info.) (RM)
 - 2 - Detroit
- RLG:map
(5)

100-32899-41

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 15 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

[Signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP6 bja/kw

ME 100-27024

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

b6
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Captain [] stated that he learned nothing further of value at the meeting he attended. He states that he does not want to join this group. However, he states that he will be kept advised of all of their activities since he is well acquainted with [] and [] who are attempting to get him to join.

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Per instructions of referenced SAC letters, no investigation conducted. Bureau will be kept advised of activities of this group as information is made available by Captain []

BE 100-27934

Also enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of a card distributed by members of the John Birch Society to Captain [redacted] entitled, 'STAY AWAY - U.S.A., THE SURREPT LEADS TO DISASTER'. It reflects copyright 1960 by American Opinion, Belmont 78, Massachusetts.

b6
b7C

4/22/60

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)
(ATTN: CRIME RECORDS DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.
Belmont, Mass.;
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont, Mass.
INFO CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)

Remy radiogram 4/14/60.

On 4/21/60, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and employed by the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, personally contacted this office and advised that recently the "Boston American" newspaper printed an excerpt from the Law Enforcement Bulletin regarding an article by Director J. EDGAR HOOVER concerning Communism on which she commented very favorably.

[REDACTED] then asked if this office could make available to her 25,000 copies of this article. She was told that this number was not available at Boston. She stated that she was going to communicate with the Bureau direct in an effort to obtain information concerning Communist matters, which might be available there and at that time would attempt to obtain the 25,000 copies she desired.

LAUGHLIN

3 - Bureau (62-104401)
1 - Boston (100-32899)

LDH/po'b:mtm
(4)

5/2/61

Sp6 bja/mce

Law

100-32899-42 *elt*

April 22, 1960



b6
b7c

Dear 

Your letter of April 15, 1960, with enclosure, relative to your efforts in combating communism, has been received. Thank you for writing.

In response to your request I am forwarding, under separate cover, 150 copies of my statement in the March 1960 issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1) - Boston
Reurad 4-15-60

100-32899-43
wht

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/11/02 BY 4046j/pj

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BOSTON (100-32899)

DATE: May 3, 1960

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: ROBERT H. WELCH, JR.,
Belmont, Mass.;
JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY,
Belmont, Mass.
INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY)

On April 22, 1960, [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] who identified himself as formerly with the U. S. Coast Guard, telephonically contacted this office to determine what information the FBI had on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. He was properly informed as to the nature of the FBI files and no information was given him. He wanted to know if the instant Society appeared on the "Attorney General's list". He was properly referred to the Subversive Organization Section, Internal Security Division, U. S. Department of Justice. He then demanded, particularly in view of his former affiliation with the Coast Guard, that this office advise him whether instant Society appeared on the Attorney General's list and appeared quite perturbed when he was advised that such information could not be made available to him by this office. He was very curt and antagonistic.

b6
b7C

Indices list [REDACTED] in 100-32899. However, it does not reflect a pertinent serial number and name could not be located in this file. [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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DATE 01-30-2012

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MAY 3 1960	
FBI - BOSTON	

[Signature]

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

May 3, 1960
(Dictated May 2, 1960)

Founder

ROBERT WELCH

The Council

N. E. ADAMSON, JR.
THOMAS J. ANDERSON
T. COLEMAN ANDREWS
JOHN T. BEATTY
SPRUILLE BRADEN
LAURENCE E. BUNKER
RALPH E. DAVIS
S. M. DRASKOVICH
WM. J. GAEDE
E. P. HAMILTON
A. G. HEINSOHN, JR.
GRANVILLE F. KNIGHT
FRED C. KOCH
ALFRED KOHLBERG
CLARENCE MANION
FRANK E. MASLAND, JR.
W. B. McMILLAN
ADOLPHE MENJOU
REVILO P. OLIVER
COLA G. PARKER
LOUIS RUTHENBURG
JAMES SIMPSON, JR.
ROBERT W. STODDARD
CHARLES B. STONE, III
ERNEST G. SWIGERT

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Three or four years ago several different friends of mine who are, I believe, also friends of yours, suggested that I ought to have a talk with you, and each one offered independently to write a letter of introduction on my behalf.

In each instance I replied that I had sent you copies of each of my two little books, MAY GOD FORGIVE US and THE LIFE OF JOHN BIRCH, and that you were regularly receiving copies of my magazine, then called ONE MAN'S OPINION but which has now become AMERICAN OPINION although I did not know whether you had ever had time to read either the magazine or the books. And that it did not seem to me that anything I was doing, beyond what was represented by these books and the magazine which were already at your disposal, was important enough to justify my taking up your time, or asking for a chance to do so.

Then, when I had got the John Birch Society fairly under way, I sent you a copy of the Blue Book of the Society, which sets forth the Society's background, methods, and purposes, and tells what we are trying to do, and how, and why, as well as I know how to explain it all in print. A little later some member of an audience down in Tennessee, hearing one of our tape recordings, somehow mistook a reference I had made to my friendship with Dr. J. B. Matthews, and my access to J. B.'s files, as a statement that I had access to the FBI's files. As a result, two of your men in Boston came to see me. I not only played for them the master tape from which the recording used in Tennessee had been taken, and showed them identically

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Hon. J. Edgar Hoover

- 2 -

May 3, 1960

the same language in the Blue Book; but I took advantage of that opportunity to give them any and all information about The John Birch Society which I thought or they thought might be helpful. But I still saw no reason to bother you.

Now, however, I am puzzled by a report from one of our best Coordinators in the South, who works in Texas, to the effect that the FBI, in answering correspondence from some people, especially in the Houston area, who have attended either our tape sessions or film sessions, has said that "The John Birch Society is a group of righteous citizens who do not know the facts." Since giving the plain facts concerning the continuous Communist advance, and their methods, is the very core of our presentations, and since for obvious reasons we have had to be meticulously careful and accurate about those facts, and since literally hundreds of outstanding conservatives or anti-Communists all over the country are constantly turning to us and our small Research Department as a source of facts for their own speeches, articles, letters, and other activities, we cannot help wondering just what has prompted any such impression as apparently has been formed, and then transmitted, by somebody in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There is nobody in this fight who has supported the FBI and yourself more unceasingly, uncompromisingly, or enthusiastically, and nobody who more firmly expects to keep right on doing so. When your book provoked a lot of grumbling, and even some loud and rabid dissent, on the part of some of your former strong supporters, because of what they considered your too favorable attitude toward the NAACP and other organizations, I wrote many pages of letters to some of these people to calm them down -- the essence of which was that, whether you had leaned over too far backward to try to be fair in some of these cases or not, you had been for too many years and still were too great and too effective a patriot for any such withdrawal or lessening of moral support to be justified. And I am sure that you would find our treatment of MASTERS OF DECEIT, in AMERICAN OPINION, one of the most favorable which the book received.

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover

- 3 -

May 3, 1960

All of this, as I am sure you have surmised, is merely an introduction to saying that I should like very much to have a chance for at least a brief visit with you; and that I should be glad to go to Washington for that purpose, at any time which would be convenient for yourself, if the time set did not conflict with some important speaking engagement which I had already made beforehand. And instead of going through one or more of these friends of mine, I decided it was certainly simpler and probably better for me merely to write directly to yourself.

I shall be glad to hear from you, also at your convenience, and shall be looking forward very much to seeing you and talking with you, if the opportunity is offered. In the meantime, with my continuing admiration and kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

RW:mlp

Robert Welch

May 10, 1960

Mr. Robert Welch
Founder
The John Birch Society, Inc.
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

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DATE 2/20/02 BY SP4BJA/PLJ

Dear Mr. Welch:

Your letter of May 3, 1960, concerning an alleged statement by the FBI regarding The John Birch Society, has been received, and I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention. It would appear that your representative in Texas has been misinformed since I can assure you the FBI has never made such a comment regarding your organization.

I certainly wish that I could arrange a definite appointment with you. I am, however, unable to do this in view of the uncertain nature of my schedule. Please feel free to call my office if you are in Washington in the future. If I am not in, one of my assistants will be happy to be of service.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

- ① - Boston (100-32899) - Enclosure
- 1 - Houston (62-1521) - Enclosure

*File
John Birch Society*

100-32899-46
SAC
Cannon - J

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)

DATE: 5/27/60

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7CSUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - X

On 5/17/60 [REDACTED] visited the Boston Office and advised that she had recently perused one of the booklets issued by the above named society and that it was her opinion that some of the statements contained therein bordered on anti-Americanism. She felt that the booklet was overly critical of the present National Administration, the Secretary of State and our foreign policy.

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[REDACTED] had nothing of a specific nature to relate. Therefore, no action is necessary regarding her visit.

MJM
MJM:cm

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100-32899-47

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FBI - [REDACTED]	

[signature]

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: SAC, BOSTON
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK
SUBJECT:

DATE: 5/20/60

100 S 94464 3/21/60

ROBERT-WELCH INC
BELMONT 70 MASS
-3-17-60-UR-W-D

ROBERT-WELCH INC
BELMONT 70 MASS
-3-17-61-UR-W-

SM - C

On 4/26/60, [redacted] a source who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available photographs of the names and addresses of subscribers maintained by "The Worker," 23 West 26th Street, NYC, an East Coast Communist weekly newspaper.

b7D

A photograph of a subscriber residing in your area is attached above for your information.

No copy of this memo is being retained in the NYO.

An explanation of the symbols appearing under the name and address is set forth on the reverse side of this letter.

1-Boston (100-) (RM)

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[Handwritten signature]

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (100-32899)

DATE: 7-1-60

FROM : ASAC P. H. STODDARD

SUBJECT: MAJOR [REDACTED] (NPN)
Robert Welch Soc - John Birch Society

Major [REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED] called and advised that he had talked to Major [REDACTED] of OSI, regarding the John Birch Society. He stated he was making a speech before this organization and wanted to know if they were OK.

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[REDACTED] is attached to the Air Force National Guard, 104 Tactical Fighter Group at Barnes Air Force Base, Westfield, Massachusetts. The society recalled by Major [REDACTED] pertains to ROBERT H. W. WELCH, Jr., of Belmont, Mass., who is the head of this organization (which is anti-Communist) and information is set forth in SAC Letter 59-13 dated 3-10-59 concerning this organization.

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The writer contacted Major [REDACTED] of OSI, Bedford, Mass. and he advised he would contact Major [REDACTED] Major [REDACTED] was advised that this information should be cleared through OSI and that this office had no information to furnish in connection with this organization.

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DATE 01-30-2012

May 20, 1960

Hon. Cecil R. King
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. King:

Two days ago my husband and I were invited to a presentation by some republican and so-called "conservative" friends of ours. It left us quite worried and we believe it might be of interest to you and similar minded members of Congress to hear about this and perhaps cast a critical eye in the direction of a certain budding organization.

It was a presentation made by the "John Birch Society" which is headed by a Robert Welch, retired former President of the Welch Candy Company. It is in form of a motion picture in which Mr. Welch gives a 2 hour lecture on the aims and structure of his organization in an effort to win members.

The basic overt aims are very admirable indeed. The Society is supposedly engaged in a crusade for the fight against communism and the influence thereof within the United States. Mr. Welch claims the support of many fine known patriots and quotes from legitimate and worthy publications. His presentation is backed by a tremendous detailed knowledge on the subject of communism, by some irrefutable facts and statistics, and by the undeniable need of doing what he proposes to do, namely to combat communism and to educate the American Public as to it's dangers.

However, neatly sandwiched inbetween facts and figures, Mr. Welch comes out with blatant half-truths and un-truths in an effort to prepare his audience for his final coup: to get them to sign up enthusiastically as members of his organization, as ambitious fighters against communism, as patriotic defenders of their country, and as providers of a secure future for their children. Nobody could possibly want to abstain from such noble ambitions!!!!

But, ----and here is where official investigation into his organization becomes greatly desirable: just what are these good people all signing up for?? An organization with an authoritarian internal structure (for the sake of expedience, they say), not unlike cells. It has a platform that recommends extreme isolationism, exclusion of all types of debate and seeks to eliminate such institutions as the United Nations, as well as all social advances, any efforts toward international understanding, and even suggests the

eventual abolition of the Republican Form of Government. Anything that disagrees with extreme rightist views is labeled: aiding and abetting the red cause, etc. For example, Mr. Welch claims that practically everyone in authoritative position in the U. S. Government during the last 30 years has been participating in the "World-wide Communist Conspiracy". His slogan is: "Less Government, more responsibility, and a better World!"

Now I, a naturalized American Citizen, have lived under Nazi rule during my formative and young adult years. If anyone can smell the rat of fascist agitation, it is I. For years the principles of Nazism have been drummed into me, I have been forced to hear every speech of Hitler's and Goebbels'. I was forced into Nazi Youth organizations. And I have felt the results of such a loathsome type of Government in my life and on my body. I do not want my children to go through the same experiences.

Mr. Welch employs the same insidious tactics that made Goebbels famous. I am afraid he is luring many an innocent do-gooder into being a card carrying nucleus of a vicious organization. The Nazi Party at first claimed it was only trying to "combat communism and create a better life." I have heard the pleas of former Nazi Party members that all they wanted was to do good. I have known the characters of some of these and I would vouch that they are telling the truth. I also would vouch for some of Mr. Welch's new disciples that that was all they too want. When will enough of them be caught in the web that might become dangerous to the rest of us U. S. Citizens??

I also want to mention that both my husband and I are decidedly anti-communist. My husband is an ex-Military Intelligence officer now engaged in space research and I escaped with the Russians at my heels from now communist dominated areas in East Germany. I left there property and friends, I have seen Communism in action. This, I believe, will vouch for my feelings in the matter. Also, after the end of the war in the American Zone of Occupation I went on record and officially signed statements pointing out to U. S. Military Authorities places of communist agitation. If nothing else, this surely got me on the communists' black lists.

These lectures of the John Birch Society are held to small groups of under 50 people. They can be attended by invitation only, and those attending must be previously screened as being "conservatives". My husband and I, who make no bones about being democrats got in there by mistake through invitation by our republican "sparring partners"---who'll do anything to bring about stimulating discussions (that they got !!) --- The Society does not want the Press to be notified or receive any publicity. If that isn't undercover, I don't know what is!?

I am not sure, Mr. King, just HOW you will be able to see that lecture, unless it is via disguise or incognito, but it would be worth all kinds of trouble to try. That is, if you are not already familiar with it. There is a publication called "American Opinion" published by Mr. Welch, that I have studied briefly. It gives the appearance of being more above-board, albeit expressing extremely rightist views. It is mainly the structure and character of the John Birch Society that leaves one to wonder, as well as the fact that many of the things they are vehemently against have nothing to do with communism.

Below I will write the name and address of the local representative. I would rather not be quoted by name to this fellow, since I would not like to embarrass my friends. The meeting was held in the building of the Westchester Women's Club --- no connection with it. Neither have I. So much of this for all it might be worth to you.

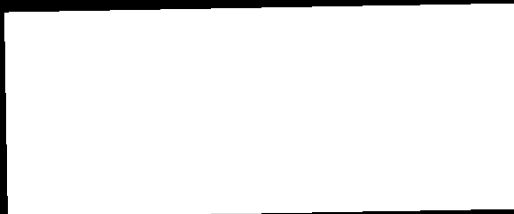
Respectfully yours,



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(IR)

The local representative of the John Birch Society gave this address to my friends:



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July 1, 1960

see att.
Honorable Cecil R. King
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter dated
June 24, 1960, enclosing a letter to you from
[REDACTED]

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Your interest and courtesy in furnishing
this material to me are indeed appreciated, and
if I can be of assistance at any time in matters
of mutual interest, please do not hesitate to
communicate with me.

I have taken the liberty of preparing
a copy of [REDACTED] letter, and in accordance
with your request, I am returning the original to
you.

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b7C

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

- ① - Boston (Enclosures 2) (SEE NOTE)
1 - Los Angeles (Enclosures 2) (SEE NOTE)

ATTENTION: SACs, LOS ANGELES AND BOSTON

Enclosed for your information are a copy of
Congressman Cecil R. King's letter to the Director and a
Photostat of the letter to the Congressman from
(NOTE TO SACs CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

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Honorable Cecil R. King

ATTENTION: SACs, LOS ANGELES AND BOSTON (CONTINUED)

[redacted] Bureau files contain no identifiable data concerning [redacted] described by [redacted] as the local representative of the John Birch Society.

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Robert Welch and the John Birch Society have not been the subjects of investigation by the Bureau. Information concerning this individual and organization is contained in SAC Letter 60-5.

The Bureau has had numerous cordial contacts with Congressman King.

TRUE COPY

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 24, 1960

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

The attached communication from my constituent,

[REDACTED] is submitted for
your attention.

I would appreciate the return of the enclosure
when it has served your purpose.

With all good wishes.

Very sincerely,

/s/ Cecil R. King

Cecil R. King, M. C.

CRK:lc
Encl

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E MILWAUKEE

Circulation Last Sunday...\$18,040
- One Year Ago \$18,700

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Sunday, July 31, 1960

JOURNAL

Daily 7 Cents
Sunday 25 Cents **Pay No More**

Metropolitan

Group Branding Ike as Red Has 10 Chapters in Wisconsin

John Birch Society Numbers 150 to 200 Members; Growth Puzzles Officials

By ALEX P. DOMAN
Of The Journal Staff

Ten chapters of the John Birch society, founded by a man who believes that President Eisenhower is a dedicated Communist, have formed in Wisconsin in the last year.

(The ostensible purpose of the society is to fight communism and influence American politics.) Its members include such leading citizens as William J. Grade, Milwaukee industrialist.

Four branches have been formed in Milwaukee and one each in Wauwatosa, Green Bay, De Pere, Oshkosh, Appleton and Eagle River.

Retired Manufacturer

Mrs. John Rueber, 3014 S. Delaware av., the wife of a medical technician, is the Milwaukee area "co-ordinator." Richard Johnson, Green Bay, an accountant, is in charge of up-state activities.

The founder of the society is a wealthy, retired candy manufacturer, who lives in Belmont, Mass. He is Robert H. W.

Welch, 61, a persuasive speaker, conservative and the author of "The Politician."

"The Politician" is a manuscript of 462 pages which has been privately reproduced in book form by the photo-offset process. Leaders of the society have received copies from Welch with the admonition that the contents are "strictly confidential and for your eyes only."

The book tries to prove that Mr. Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscientious agent of the Communist party.

It claims that Mr. Eisenhower's brother, Milton, is the president's superior in the party and that a dozen other highly placed government men are either sub-right Communists or tools of the party.

Claims Presidents "Used"

Former President Roosevelt, the book says, was unknowingly used by the party. Ex-President Truman was knowingly used, it continues. As for President Eisenhower, page 266 reads:

"In my own opinion, the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

Welch, Johnson and Mrs. Rueber deny that the book is

used at meetings. Group leaders like Johnson and Mrs. Rueber have copies, however.

Neither Johnson nor Mrs. Rueber would discuss the contents of "The Politician." Mrs. Rueber said she had not reached a conclusion, adding: "I am not obligated to explain my personal conclusion, if I have reached one, to anybody."

Curious About Book

She wanted to know when The Milwaukee Journal had obtained a copy since the book was not supposed to be seen by "ordinary" society members or outsiders.

"Someone," she said, "broke a confidence."

Johnson said he shared the bulk of Welch's views, but shied away from hanging a Communist label on the president.

He said at first that he "has no idea" if Mr. Eisenhower was a Communist.

"I only know that if he is not he might as well be," he said. "It is a moot question. The results of his administration are the same."

Later he added: "I don't think Eisenhower is bright enough to be permitted to be one of the party."

Welch's goal is a million members. He declined to say how many members were in the

Turn to page 26, column 1

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Milwaukee Has Four John Birch Groups

From page 1, column 7

society nationally or in what states chapters had been organized. He said organization was going "nicely in Wisconsin," adding that Wisconsin was a "good, conservative state." Asked if he still held the views expressed in "The Politician," he said he would not comment.

On his letterhead inviting selected persons to join, Welch lists two other Wisconsin industrialists, besides Grede, as members of the society's national council.

They are E. P. Hamilton, Two Rivers, president of the Hamilton Manufacturing Co., maker of washing machines, dryers and office and drafting equipment, and Cola B. Parker, Neenah, former chairman of the board of Kimberly-Clark Corp.,

paper manufacturer. Both were out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Membership Confirmed

Grede confirmed that he was a council member. He said he didn't think Mr. Eisenhower was a Communist and said he had no comment about the book.

Welch describes the society in the "Blue Book," which he also wrote and which is distributed more widely among members than "The Politician."

"The men who join the John Birch society are going to be doing so primarily because they

believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway," he wrote. "We are going to use that loyalty, like every other resource, to the fullest possible advantage that we can. When-

ever and wherever, either phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud." The society is named after John Birch, an American army captain and fundamentalist Baptist minister, who allegedly was murdered by Chinese Communists 10 days after V-J day. The society was founded by Welch on Dec. 9, 1958, in Indianapolis, with the support of a small group of businessmen.

Opposes Factions

"We are not going to have factions developing on the two-sides-to-every question theme. Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out."

In the same book, Welch outlines his philosophy. "Democracy, of course, in government or organization as the Greeks and Romans found it, is merely a deceptive

When-

that she was interested, and re-

Started in 1959

In Milwaukee the society began late in 1959 after Welch gave a privately attended talk here.

Mrs. Rueber's reason for organizing the first branch, she said, was.

"I couldn't sit back and wait for someone else to do it. Communism had been winning for some time."

She wrote to Welch saying

organize and other necessary material. She knows Welch personally.

"I consider him a fine man," she said.

Mrs. Rueber said two chapters were on the east side, two on the south side and a fifth in Wauwatosa. Meetings usually were in private homes. She declined to say where meetings were held or when the next one will be. She said the press could not attend.

Under the Welch program, each chapter gets a monthly "John Birch Bulletin," which Welch edits. This usually gives the "assignment" for the month for two years and finally, Har-

Dues are \$24 a year for men and \$12 for women.

society is growing fast, according to low enforcement sources. Wisconsin has between 150 and 200 members, according to Johnson and Mrs. Rueber. They were enrolled in less than a year. This factor, plus the high level of influence and intelligence of members, disturbs law enforcement officials.

Movies Are Utilized

Welch writes skillfully and uses movies effectively of himself speaking in making his points.

He was born in Chowan county, North Carolina. He was graduated from the University of North Carolina attended the United States Naval academy, Harvard law school. He was in charge of sales and advertising for the firm that bears his name. He was vice-chairman of the Massachusetts Republican finance committee and, in 1950, a candidate for the lieutenant governor's post on the Republican ticket.

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August 8, 1960

Mr. Eelden Ely
Republican State Committee
8 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Ely:

In accordance with our telephone conversation
today concerning a news item published July 31, 1960
in the Milwaukee Journal, a most disturbing article to
say the least, I am enclosing it for you to photostat
and use. Please return this original to me, as I
have been requested to return it to my friend in
Wisconsin.

When you are able to obtain any information
relative to this item, I would certainly appreciate
your advising me, as you agreed.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,

b6
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OTERS N ACTION

Chairman

E. J. O'DONOGHUE
P. O. Box 562, Boston

Treasurer

C. R. JONES

Secretary

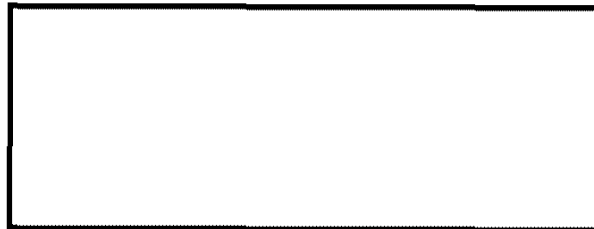
D. WHITEHEAD

Vice Chairman

(Director of Organization)
R. L. WHITING



The Republican State Committee would
like to have you check on this.



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"All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing."
Edmund Burke

470 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts
August 30, 1960

The Honorable Belden G. Bly, Jr.
House of Representatives
State House
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Sir:

Your letter postmarked August 25, 1960 with enclosures has been received, and the interest that prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the function of the FBI as a fact-gathering agency does not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to comply with your request.

Very truly yours,


L. L. LAUGHLIN
Special Agent in Charge

100-32899

LMM:maj

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100-32899-55

Belmont Seat of Birch Society

Extreme Rights Take Aim at Lefts

By STANLEY EAMES

(This is the first of three stories.)

Extremists in search of a political home never have lacked for strange places to rest their heads. This year, with a moderate government in prospect regardless of the election's outcome, disciples of the Far Right are being offered a haven in the John Birch Society.

★ ★ ★

The Society is the creation of Robert H. W. Welch Jr., ultra-conservative, retired Cambridge candy manufacturer. It might have remained a behind-the-scenes organization, as Welch intended it to be, had it not been for its founder's 100,000-word "letter to a friend," titled "The Politician."

In "The Politician," Welch charged that President Eisenhower is a dedicated, conscious Communist agent, answerable to his brother Milton (Ike's alleged boss in the Party), and for whose actions "there is only one word—treason."

(Continued on Page Eight, Section II)

____ Boston American, Boston, Mass.
____ Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
☒ Boston Herald, Boston, Mass. Sunday
____ Boston Traveler, Boston, Mass.
____ Christian Science Monitor,
Boston, Mass.
____ Daily Record, Boston, Mass.

Date: August 28, 1960
Edition: Late City Edition
Author: STANLEY EAMES
Editor:
Title: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

Class. or Character:
Page: 7. & con't on 8 Section 2
Bufile No.
Submitting Office: Boston 700-32899

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Extreme Rights Take Aim at Lefts

(Continued from First Page)

\$ "The Politician" also described former Presidents Truman and Roosevelt as tools of international Communism, along with the Dulles brothers and various other high government officials.

Written in 1954 and added to from time to time, "The Politician" was intended as a semi-secret document outlining the progress of Communism, and particularly in the United States.

In the black-bound tome Welch describes the contents as "completely private and confidential" but in the midwest, where the John Birch Society is perhaps at its strongest, a copy leaked to a newspaper, together with the implication that it is the society's bible.

Welch this week heatedly denied any connection between the society

NOT FOR PRINT

and his hand book.

"Four-fifths of our members never have seen it and most of those who have don't agree with it," he said in an interview in his Belmont office.

"Do you still think Eisenhower is a Communist?" he was asked.

"I never felt that way enough to say it in print," Welch replied. "Now I don't know what I think. Eisenhower may be too dumb to be a Communist."

(On Jan. 1, 1960, Welch added as a footnote to "The Politician": "A huge majority of Eisenhower's

appointments during the past year make no sense whatever except as a part of a plan to help the Communists".)

"The Politician" grew like Top-sy; Welch is a prolific and er-suasive writer; years ago he also wrote with wit and charm. After the first copy, intended to go to "one friend" and expanded to a few more, he says the demand for it grew.

"I added to it every time I got requests for it," he said. "By 1956 it had grown to 6,000 words. By 1958, it was up to 80,000. At that point I decided to reproduce it by offset — but it's still just a long letter to a friend."

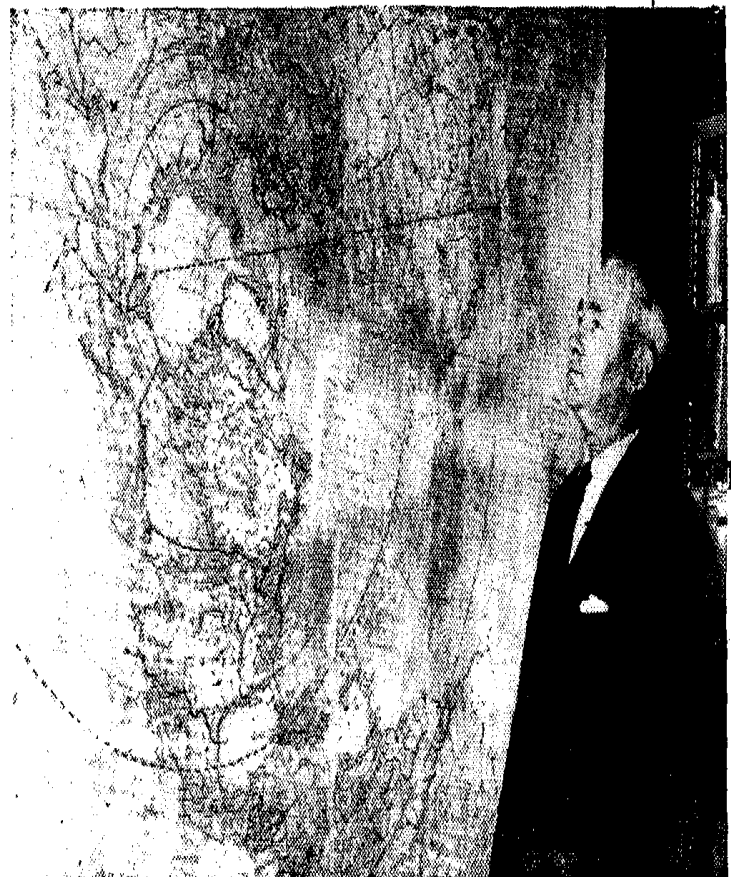
He declined to reveal how many copies are out, except to say it is "in the low hundreds". Its major purpose, he insists, is simply to alert its readers to "the incredible pattern of help to Communism by our government."

SEEKS WITHDRAWAL

Nevertheless, he added, he now intends to try to withdraw each copy, and get it out of circulation as quickly as possible.

If he suspected President Eisenhower of Communist leanings, Welch was asked, how about the four Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates?

"I don't think any one is a Communist," he said, "or favorable to Communist aims. But every one of the four is willing to be soft on Communism



A COMMUNIST WORLD?—Fear of spread of Red influence has moved Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, who once called President Eisenhower a Communist, to form the John Birch Society, a controversial organization with which he opposes Communism and welfare state.

and to be blind to the fact that their actions help the Communist purpose — to get the left-wing support needed for election."

What will the John Birch Society, which Welch bosses almost completely, do in the coming election?

"I have to let the members know in September what I'm going to do," he said. "we were all set for a write-in drive for Goldwater, but he doesn't want it. I do know that I can't vote for Nixon and Lodge."

The John Birch Society is not essentially political, he said: "We are not out to start a third party, but we can be a strong force behind a third party if that's the only way. The society didn't for the Presidential nomination, but a lot of the members did as individuals." Welch himself was a prime organizer of the abortive Goldwater rally at the Republican national convention.

In fact, when Welch was outlining the formation of the society at a meeting in Indianapolis on Dec. 9, 1958, he briefly considered

Goldwater as its leader, but found reasons why it wouldn't do. He considered even more briefly Vice-President Nixon ("one of the ablest, shrewdest and slipperiest politicians on the American scene, but not a leader").

He concluded, not surprisingly, that he was the man for the job. And he laid down some tough requirements for membership, chief among which was something approaching unquestioning obedience.

In his "Blue Book", consisting of the 174-page speech he delivered in several marathon sessions at Indianapolis, Welch said the society "is to be a monolithic body.

"Democracy," he declared, "is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, a perennial fraud." He spoke of the "advantages of firm and positive direction of the society's energies", and pledged:

"We are going to cut through the red tape and parliamentary briar patches and roadblocks of confused purpose with direct authority at every turn. The men who join the John Birch Society . . . are going to be doing so primarily because they believe in me and what I am doing and are willing to accept my leadership anyway.

"And we are going to use that loyalty, like every other resource, to the fullest possible advantage.

MUM ON SIZE

"Those members who cease to feel the necessary degree of loyalty can either resign or will be put out before they build up any splintering following of their own inside the society".

Welch this week said this position was taken to avoid Communist infiltration within the society.

Apparently, although Welch refuses to give figures on the size of the society, it has a substantial membership willing to adhere to these conditions.

Society publications, including the magazine "American Opinion", give the Belmont post office its largest single source of revenue, approaching \$25,000 a year.

(TOMORROW: What is the John Birch Society, and what is it doing?)

Works Behind Scenes

Schools Target Of Reds' Enemy

By STANLEY EAMES

(Second of three stories)

The John Birch Society was organized, according to its founder and boss, Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, to do two things: fight Communism and work for less government, more individual responsibility, and a better world.

* * *

It is not a secret society, he insists. The names of members of its council, including three respected Massachusetts men, are on its letterhead for all to see.

* * *

But the Society, which came into the limelight recently

(Continued on Page Four)

Boston American, Boston, Mass.
Boston Globe, Boston, Mass.
☒ Boston Herald, Boston, Mass.
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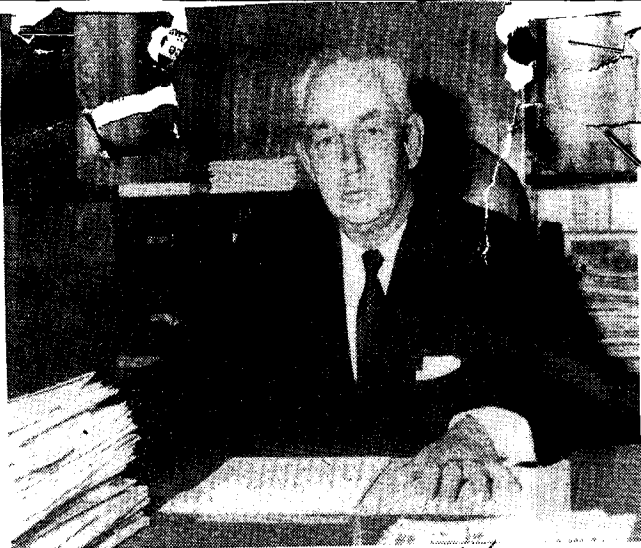
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ROBERT H. W. WELCH, JR.

Schools Target Of Reds' Enemy

(Continued from First Page)

when Welch's 302-page "letter to a friend" blasting President Eisenhower as a dedicated Communist agent leaked to the press, prefers to work behind the scenes, he said this week.

"We don't seek publicity," Welch declared. "We try to build without making a lot of noise."

Working through chapter of 10 to 20 persons, the Society makes its first aim the ferreting out and fighting of any influence it believes to be Communist. And it believes a great many of them to be.

Watches Schools

In the process it barrages public officials with cards and letters, works to keep commentators reflecting its viewpoint in business, pays particular attention to school textbooks and provides its members with long lists of "approved" reading.

In addition, a small flood of print, in the form of Welch's magazine, "American Opinion", and the Society's periodically issued bulletin, comes from his offices on Concord street, Belmont. All of it is highly charged material concerning the alleged infiltration of Reds in U. S. government; the June bulletin, for example, says the U-2 plane was flown over Russia "deliberately... as a part of the act."

This is mild for Welch, who in the past has branded a large number of U.S. officials as agents of the Kremlin, but who says the Society should not be identified in any way with these utterances, many of them made before the group was organized in 1958.

Candy Expert

To understand the Society's viewpoint it is necessary to know Welch's own position, for he is the fountainhead and lifeblood of the organization.

He was born 60 years ago on a North Carolina farm, educated at the University of North Carolina, U.S. Naval Academy and Harvard Law School. He came to Boston in 1919 and has spent most of the time here since then.

He was noted for years as one of the most successful sales and advertising executives in the candy business, serving as vice-president of the James O. Welch Company headed by his brother. He now gives full time to his Society.

Dynamic, capable of making the most extreme proposition sound highly plausible, he has traveled well over a million miles in his lifelong search for knowledge about what he be-

lieved to be the steady march of socialism.

Welch was vice-chairman of the Massachusetts GOP finance committee in 1948, worked for Eisenhower's election in 1952, and ran for the Republican nomination for lieutenant-governor in 1950, finishing second in a large field. He now says he is "all through" with Massachusetts politics as such.

In 1954 he served as New England vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers and as chairman of one of its major committees on education.

In 1956, he advocated the formation of a third party and today clearly would be happy to throw what may be his considerable support behind such a party. He is, however, realistic enough not to expect it to happen at this time.

What he is doing now with the organization over which he holds iron-fisted authority is to "harass the edges of the enemy while we grow". The "enemy", of course, is first and foremost any acknowledged Communist. Secondly, and this embraces a great deal of territory, and advocates of anything beyond minimal government. Many in the latter category find themselves tarred with the pink paintbrush.

Among Welch's aims are the establishment of reading rooms, now operating in Florida and California; promotion of the Welch publications (he has given his stock in the monthly publication "American Opinion" to the Society); support of radio shows of such commentators as Hubert Kregeloh in Springfield, an associate editor of "American Opinion," and former Notre Dame Law School Dean Clarence Manion, a member of the Society's Council, and frequent letter-writing campaigns.

'Fronts' Favored

Welch also advocates the use of "fronts," a technique widely used by his enemy. Among those he has suggested, for example, were A Petition to Impeach Earl Warren, a Committee to Investigate Communist Influence at Vassar, Women Against Labor Union Hoodlumism, and a Petition to the Air Line Pilots Association (surely as capitalistic a group as ever lived) to Grow Up.

At the time of the Society's

*Help a child
thru Jimmy Fund*

organization, he wanted a sharp eye kept on the pulpit, too. "Some (Protestant) preachers," he wrote, "actually use their pulpits to preach outright Communism."

"We're doing a lot of work in school texts," he told The Herald. "Most of them are loaded and there aren't any decent substitutes. We need anti-Communist tests."

Indignation Rises

Welch showed righteous indignation as he warmed to his topic. "The text - writers," he said, "can take elementary arithmetic and, by making the problems deal with money that medicine costs poor Father, glorify socialized medicine and the welfare state."

"In many cases we check with local school committees. We're getting our people elected to school committees. We're pointing out bad books and getting the worst of them thrown out. We're getting good elementary texts written and keeping them objective. We're not trying to do an anti-Communist job in this field, except in history. History should be American, patriotic history."

Welch, who understands sharply works constantly to educate not only school committees but his own members. "We send Red literature to members so they can see the other side," he said. "Our blue stickers say a book is approved by the John Birch Society; it means we think it was written from an Americanist viewpoint."

"Our Red label means a book is the property of but has not yet been approved by the John Birch Society. You can really make something of that if you want to, I suppose," he added.

(Tomorrow: Is the John Birch Society a "hate" organization?)

Not a 'Hate' Society

Anti-Red Group Weakest in N.E.

By STANLEY EAMES

(Third of three stories)

Is the John Birch Society a "hate" organization?

Robert H. W. Welch Jr. of Belmont, its 60-year-old founder and boss, who once termed President Eisenhower a Communist agent subject to the orders of his brother (and alleged superior in the Party), Milton, denies it forcefully.

★ ★ ★

"We haven't got a 'hater' anywhere in our membership. And our membership reaches into about 20 states, with about 25 chapters in Greater Boston alone," he says.

★ ★ ★

Welch insists the organization is no more nor less than a society dedicated to the eradication of Communism and the substitution of less, and better, government for big, bad government...

Although he says time and again the group is not a secret society, Welch is vague about its size and the degree of its influence on national affairs.

Organized by Welch in 1958 before what he terms a meeting of top U. S. industrialist, it has mushroomed into all parts of the nation. He says it is strongest in Tennessee, Texas and Southern California—strongholds respectively of arch-conservatism and various kinds of fanaticism.

Hardest Area

"We're not too strong in New England," he admitted. "This is the hardest part of the country in which to wake up people against

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the Communists. His periodically-issued bulletin lists one to 20 chapters of 10 to 20 persons each in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, Oregon and Washington. This would imply a membership somewhere in the thousands, possibly in the low hundreds of thousands.

"We went out for a million members, but that may have been the result of talking before experience," he said. "We find that getting the solid, dedicated members that we want—not just anti-Communists—is a slower process than we expected. We have also found out," he said, "that what we can accomplish through small chapters is immensely greater than we thought."

Named for a U. S. missionary-chaplain murdered by Chinese Communists, the Society now has 17 home-office and 35 field employees.

Welch works through an organization of "coordinators", who organize chapters with the help of movies of Welch delivering speeches, one of which lasts six hours with a coffee-break.

McCarthy Admirers

Ninety-five per cent of the Society's membership, he says, are admirers of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy, with whom Welch once shared a platform here. But members "are all kinds of people," he said, "ranging in age from 16 to 90."

"In one large Texas city we have two or three chapters. One is made up of top financial people, another of carpenters who worked for our coordinator, another of Negroes, mostly servants." The Society is bitterly against "forced integration" as a violation of state's rights. Some college chapters are being launched, but with "adult leaders," Welch revealed.

The Society levies dues of \$24 annually for men and \$12 for women; a life membership costs \$1000. It has been in the black at all times "because we don't grow until we can afford it," he said. Although details of the Society's finances are secret, he once launched a drive "to raise an additional \$1,000,000 a year." Coordinators are paid, chapter leaders—and the top leader, Welch—are not.

Every member signs a pledge to agree that he or she can be fired from the Society without reason at any time, but Welch says it has not been used.

"I am on my Council, but I

have to take the ultimate responsibility," he told The Herald. On occasion he will admit in his bulletin that members have criticized slogans (to Ike, on the summit conference: "If you go, don't come back!") as being in bad taste. On those occasions, he reminds members that nobody is forcing them to stay.

"Democracy," he told this reporter, "is desirable in small organizations. In larger ones you need a republic, the best of all possible forms of government." Some members have muttered that Welch is running a dictatorship.

Not Bound

Welch periodically issues "assignments" to members, although they are not bound to carry them out. A recent list included writing to discourage Rep. Walter from leaving the House un-American Activities subcommittee; and starting a drive to abolish foreign aid. Another such list urged the support of an anti-Communist school in Illinois; read a book on Welch's "proved" list; send anti-Castro postcards to Secretary of State Herter (who somehow has miraculously escaped Welch's charge of Communism); fight the import of foreign nails; heckle speakers at United World Federalists' meetings; don't believe—and do promptly report—rumors about Welch.

The founder's philosophy of government is simple: the less the better.

"If we can stimulate enough against the Communists," he said, "we will become as strong force of individuals working very hard to bring about an era of less government and more individual responsibility."

What, he was asked, would be done about the sick and the poor under the kind of government he envisions?

People Sounder

"If we could keep Social Security out of business," Welch replied, "with the charitableness of the American heart, you would see the best pension plans the world has ever known. You've got a democratic leadership telling the American people they want this and that. The people are sounder than their government. Bellboys and cab drivers are more alert to the Communist menace than bankers." The burden of his philosophy appeared to be that people will take care of their own better than government—if government doesn't do the job for them.

What will be the future of his Society?

"That depends on how fast the Communists win," Welch said. "They're taking the world pretty darn fast. Just look at the scorecard. We are in danger."

In "The Life of John Birch," one of several books by Welch, the Belmont crusader uses the story of a Georgia farm boy-turned-missionary to point up what he considers "the ordeal of this age."

MISSIONARY WORK

Birch, a descendant of John Alden, volunteered for missionary work in China; what he did was intelligence work, for the most part, and according to the late Gen. Claire Chennault he was extremely good at it. Becoming an Army captain, he saved many downed fliers, set up radio networks, penetrated enemy lines, supervised the building of airfields, and through it all found the time and will to preach the Gospel.

He was a missionary-spy with courage, dash and humor, and sufficiently dedicated to break off an engagement to a Red Cross girl when it seemed his life would be too rough for a woman to share.

At the war's end Birch was singled out from a party of Chinese and Americans, and was shot and bayoneted by Chinese Communists—a fact, according to Welch, that the War Department kept buried as long and as deep as it could.

In Birch's death, Welch sees the whole capitalist-communist issue symbolized and dramatized. His book, after dealing with Birch's life and death, goes on to allege that the U.S. government is Communist-riddled, and says his purpose is to make sure that "John Birch did not die in vain."

It is climaxed by Welch's bald statement that Christianity or Communism "must be completely destroyed."

The John Birch Society, with its imperate viewpoint and its founder's shotgun-accusations, is his vehicle for fighting his own private war against Communism.

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